

DAILY REPORT

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'TEXT' OF TAMURA 'SEMICONDUCTOR LETTER' TO U.S.

OW241133 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO -- The following is the full text of a letter dated March 20 sent by Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, to U.S. officials:

1. Market Access

(1) To promote the sale of foreign-based semiconductors, high level MITI [Ministry of International Trade and Industry] officials have appealed directly to the top management of major user-firms. Although the market environment as a whole has worsened because of the reduced domestic demand caused by the recessionary influence of the rapid appreciation of the yen, we have been taking every possible step to promote such sales.

It is reported that new commercial contacts between domestic users and foreign-based semiconductor firms have already started. We are expecting future developments.

Though improved market access for foreign-based semiconductors cannot be achieved in a day, I am sure that the efforts we are making accompanied by improved market conditions and the continuous sales efforts of foreign semiconductor producers will result in steady success.

(2) In accordance with the arrangement, an organization was established in early March to provide advice and guidance on sales promotion with the primary objective of promoting the purchase of foreign-based semiconductors.

It is extremely regrettable, however, that to date there has been no active participation in the activities of this organization (the International Semiconductor Cooperation Center) by U.S. enterprises. For the purpose of making the activities of this organization meaningful, I sincerely hope that you will encourage U.S. enterprises to actively participate according to the provision of the arrangement.

As its first activity the center will provide foreign-based semiconductor companies exhibition space for their products at a special corner of "Technology Japan 87" exhibition which is to be held in Tokyo from April 13 to 16. Thirty foreign-based firms are expected to exhibit their products at this exhibition.

The center will be managed as following. First, participants are required to contribute at least one unit (1 million yen) in order to establish the basic fund of the center. Those participants who contribute to the fund are qualified to take part in the management of the center.

Thus far, 10 Japanese major semiconductor users have subscribed a total of 100 units (100 million yen) to the fund, and French company Thomson Composants has contributed one unit. In addition to the initial contribution, participants are required to pay at least one unit (200,000 yen) as an annual fee. Those 10 Japanese enterprises have subscribed a total of 405 units (81 million yen) as an annual fee for the first-year. Under this setup no U.S. enterprises have participated in the center, unfortunately.

It is recommended that U.S. enterprises take part in the management of the center by contributing at least one unit of 1 million yen to the fund. But for those who cannot afford to pay 1 million yen, there is another capacity in which they can participate in the activity of the center by paying only the annual fee.

It was agreed that the U.S. Government would support the centers activities as much as possible, as specified in clause 1 market access 3 (2) of the arrangement.

2. Cut Price Sales of Semiconductors 256 KDRAM [kilobit dynamic random access memory] and EPROM [erasable, programmable read-only memory] in Third Country Markets

(1) Our survey which we conducted in the beginning of March shows that there is nothing to substantiate the claim that Japanese producers are selling at cut rate prices in third country markets through their legitimate distribution channels. In addition, "gray exports" taking advantage of the price difference between home and abroad, are rapidly decreasing due to adjustments in the supply and demand situation in Japan.

MITI sent Yukio Honda, the director of the Industrial Electronics Division, to Singapore and Hong Kong from March 8 through 12 to investigate the price situation for the 256 KDRAM and EPROM.

a. His report reconfirmed what we mentioned at the consultation in January, for products sold in third country markets through the legitimate distribution channels of Japanese producers, no contracts have been made for products priced at less than each producers cost which MITI is using as a monitoring standard.

The number of new contracts for Japanese producers has decreased substantially because their prices are much higher than the market price described below.

(After hearing his report, MITI found an article of WALL STREET JOURNAL reporting one Japanese producer's cut price sale in a third country market. MITI is now making a strict investigation on the facts).

b. Market price still remains at the low level of 1.6-1.8 dollars, because U.S. and Korean producers are selling at lower prices in order to expand their market share. The fact that products exported through gray channels remain in distribution is another cause of the low price. Gray exports are now rapidly decreasing, reflecting the adjustment in the supply and demand situation within Japan.

We are very interested in the results of the survey conducted by the U.S. Government. If they differ from ours, we are determined to continue our investigation until we are fully convinced of why they differ and what the facts are. One way to accomplish this would be to conduct a joint U.S.-Japan investigation in third countries, in order to determine the correct facts.

(2) MITI has been taking every possible step, including the utilization of an export licensing system, to solve this new problem -- the emergence of the gray market. Nevertheless, no artificial measure can be completely effective under the current unfavorable market situation, of sluggish domestic demand and unstable prices.

Therefore, we have instituted a policy aimed at creating a relationship between supply and demand in which a gray market will not arise. As a result of the measures, there are signs of price increases in the Japanese spot market, and I believe there will be remarkable improvement of the circumstances of the third-country market in the near future.

In order to eradicate the gray market, what is essential is improvement of the supply-demand situation. On this point of view, MITI strengthened the supply-demand adjustment for 256 KDRAMS and EPROMS from February. In accordance with our supply-demand forecast the production of these items in this quarter is expected to decrease by more than 20 percent compared with the previous quarter.

An estimate for the coming quarter will be made in a similar direction.

Signs of price increase in the Japanese spot market show that the supply-demand relationship has started to change toward what we expected. (An article from a Japanese newspaper, the NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN, is attached for your information.)

3. On March 20, I myself, with a fresh determination, invited chairmen and/or presidents of major user firms and producers to personally encourage their cooperation in promoting the purchase of foreign-based semiconductors and to request them strongly not to sell their products at cut rate prices.

NAKASONE SPEAKS AT DEFENSE ACADEMY COMMENCEMENT

OW221414 Tokyo NHK Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Text] Prime Minister Nakasone spoke at the National Defense Academy commencement today and outlined his views of providing Japan with moderate defense force of high quality without it becoming a military power that would threaten other countries. [video shows scenes at the commencement; diplomas presented to graduates] The commencement was held at the National Defense Academy located in Yokosuka City, Kanagawa Prefecture, at 1000 this morning. Present at the commencement were Prime Minister Nakasone, Director General Kurihara of the Defense Agency, and others. Prime Minister Nakasone gave an address of instructions to the 435 graduates.

[Begin Nakasone recording] In view of the military situation of the world, the hard facts show that regional disputes and confrontations are still going on. While Japan must firmly maintain the Japan-U.S. security system, for the sake of self-defense, it is necessary to provide our country with necessary but moderate and efficient defense capabilities of high quality. Under the peace-oriented Constitution, it is natural that we will never become a military power that threatens other countries. And we have not in the least changed our position of adhering to the principle of defense only, as well as to the three non-nuclear principles while observing the principle of civilian control. [end recording]

These were the remarks made by Prime Minister Nakasone in which he outlined his views of providing our country with moderate defense forces.

[Video shows Kurihara speaking at the commencement] Meanwhile, Director General Kurihara of the Defense Agency stated that the nation's understanding and support is indispensable for the Self-Defense Force in carrying out its task and that the self-defense officials should be strict with themselves and earnestly attend to their training. He hoped that they would lead the units with all their might when they become commanders, and demanded that they become good leaders for the future.

Meanwhile, students of the National Defense Academy are regarded as civil service personnel, and they get salaries while studying at the academy on the assumption that they will be commissioned as self-defense officials upon their graduation. However, there are a few graduates every year who refuse to be commissioned because of their employment with private enterprises. This year, in particular, the number of such graduates reached 35, the largest number so far. [video shows students throwing up caps at the end of the ceremonies]

NAKASONE, MIYAZAWA REACT TO DOLLAR'S FALL

OW240227 Tokyo KYODO in English 0146 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpts] Tokyo, March 24 KYODO -- The U.S. dollar plunged to a new low of 148.90 yen briefly in early Tokyo interbank trading Tuesday, forcing the Bank of Japan to step into the market to forestall the dollar's sharp decline. [passage omitted]

The Bank of Japan intervened repeatedly in the market shortly after 9:30 a.m. [0030 GMT] to prevent the dollar from falling further, the dealers said. [passage omitted]

Earlier in the day, Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa told reporters after a cabinet meeting that the time is now for Japan to act in line with an accord reached with other major countries to stabilize their currency exchange rates. Miyazawa declined to go into details but his statement apparently indicated a possibility that Japan, the United States and other countries will step into the markets to support the dollar.

The dollar's fall reflected an overnight slide on European and U.S. markets triggered by a weekend remark by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker that the U.S. Government does not have a target for the dollar.

But Miyazawa said there exists an agreement among major industrial countries on policy coordination to stabilize currency exchange rates. He expressed belief that the U.S. and other countries would join Japan in intervening in the markets to check the dollar's further fall if the yen continued to appreciate.

Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone told reporters he has asked Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa (to take necessary steps to prevent the dollar's further fall). "The yen-dollar exchange rate will be decided on the market," he said.

Hajime Tamura, minister of international trade and industry, also said he wants the Bank of Japan to step forcefully into the market to check the dollar's further fall against the yen. He told reporters a very serious blow will be dealt to Japanese industry if the yen starts to rise. The MITI head called for the prompt preparation of a comprehensive package of pump-priming measures to expand the nation's domestic demand.

Economic Planning Agency Directory General Tetsuo Kondo told the press the government has to make more serious efforts (to expand domestic demand) because insufficient domestic demand has tempted Japanese makers to export their products. "Expansion of domestic demand has become more important and urgent (in order to stabilize the yen's value against the dollar)," Kondo said.

LDP, OPPOSITION PARTIES BEGIN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

OW230549 Tokyo KYODO in English 0532 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Tokyo, March 23 KYODO -- Leaders of the ruling and opposition parties began canvassing Monday as nationwide local election campaigns for the first round of 13 gubernatorial elections were officially announced. The elections will be held April 12.

At the outset of the campaign, Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone said at the Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) headquarters here that "party members will make determined efforts to help realize tax reforms" in the Diet, including the passage of a controversial governmental-proposed sales tax. Renewing his pledge to win Diet approval of the sales tax, Nakasone warned that "without tax and financial reforms, the national power of Japan will begin dwindling 10 years from now."

Takako Doi, chairwoman of the No 1 opposition Japan Socialist Party, kicked off her campaign by criticizing the sales tax, saying that "the elections should be regarded as a referendum" in which she said she hopes the voters will cast their ballots to reject the sales tax. The election campaign lasts for 20 days.

This is a major political event this year, the results of which are expected to influence the timing of a possible announcement by Nakasone of his resignation as prime minister. Nakasone, in office since November 1982, is expected to step down as prime minister before his term as party president expires at the end of October.

The tax package is expected to dominate issues to be debated among ruling and opposition party candidates during the campaign. The opposition parties view these elections as the first step in their counteroffensive against Nakasone since his landslide victory in the double elections of both houses of the Diet on July 6 last year.

Particular interest will be focused on gubernatorial races in Fukuoka and Hokkaido, in which the LDP aims to regain seats it lost in the last election in 1983. In Hokkaido, incumbent Gov. Takahiro Yokomichi, 46, backed up a coalition of the JSP and the United Social Democratic Party, is challenged by the LDP-backed Akira Matsuura, 57, former chief of the Food Agency. In Fukuoka, Gov. Hachiji Okuda, 66, supported by a coalition of the JSP and the Japan Communist Party (JCP), will be opposed by Kenzo Tanaka, 64, a former president of Kyushu University, who is backed by the LDP. Both elections are expected to be fiercely contested, analysts say.

Other gubernatorial races will be held in Tokyo, Kanagawa, Osaka, Iwate, Akita, Ibaraki, Fukui, Tottori, Shimane, Saga and Oita Prefectures. In six of the 13 prefectures including Tokyo, Kanagawa and Osaka, incumbents are expected to win due to the backing of a coalition of the LDP and the middle-of-road parties such as Komeito and the Democratic Socialist Party or by both the LDP and all opposition except the JCP.

In Tokyo, incumbent Governor Shunichi Suzuki hit the road Monday after filing his candidacy for the election earlier in the morning, and told voters he will oppose any attempt by the LDP to ram the sales tax through Diet. Suzuki is challenged by candidates of the JSP and the JCP, but is expected to win a third four-year term.

According to the Home Affairs Ministry, a total of 2,573 elections will be held in the nationwide polls, including 830 local government offices -- some 25 percent of the total. Election campaigns in Sapporo and Kawasaki will start on Saturday and for 44 prefectural and nine government-designated city assembly members on April 3. Balloting of these elections is also set for April 12. Other mayoral and town assembly elections will be announced on April 19 and 21, with balloting set for April 26.

DAILY COMMENTARY 'REFUTES' ARMITAGE'S REMARKS

SK230608 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0542 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 23 (KCNA) -- NODONG SINMUN today refutes the outcries of U.S. bellicose elements including Armitage, assistant secretary of defence for international security affairs. over "threat from the North."

Ridiculing their protestation that the arms buildup of the North is rendering the situation strained on the Korean peninsula, a signed commentary of the paper says:

The sophism of the U.S. war-thirsty elements is a naked lie and a mockery of world opinion.

For the removal of the confrontation and antagonism between the North and the South and peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, we have in recent years taken realistic momentous peace initiatives and made proposals more than once and took the active step of withdrawing 150,000 People's Army soldiers from the frontline area and posts and engaging them in peace construction. Towards the end of last year we put forward the proposal for high-level political and military talks and have made efforts for its realisation.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets, far from responding to our peace proposals and initiatives, are sticking ever tighter to their moves for the provocation of another war.

Now adventurous "Team Spirit 87" manoeuvres are being staged with rare frenzy in and around South Korea.

All the facts rule out argument as to whence the danger of war comes and who threatens whom in Korea.

Yet the U.S. authorities turn a blind eye to the reality and sing the old tune in chorus, beating the broken drums over "arms buildup of the North" and "threat from the North." They seek in this to justify their aggressive moves and war preparations which have entered a dangerous stage and find a pretext to permanently occupy South Korea and start a new war to attack our republic and other socialist countries with it as the foremost attack base.

Armitage revealed this intention of the U.S. imperialists when he blared that a "defense strategy" for Northeast Asia was in the making, which is keynoted by the "forward deployment" of U.S. military forces in the area and strengthening of the U.S.-Japan-South Korea "alliance," crying that it is a "very dangerous area" in military aspect.

The U.S. imperialists scheme to utilize the three-way military alliance among the United States, Japan and South Korea as a military tool for the realisation of the Asian strategy and anti-socialist strategy.

The U.S. authorities, while racing headlong along the road of war, allege that we, who are striving for peace on the Korean peninsula, threaten someone. This reminds us of a thief crying "stop thief!"

COMMENTARY CALLS ROK MILITARY AID 'SOPHISTRY'

SK250542 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Yong-pok: "The Aggressors' Brazen Sophistry"]

[Text] According to a news report, in testimony before the Defense Policy Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives, Ronald Hayes, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Forces, raved that because North Korea has forward deployed numerically superior troops, the United States urgently needs to continue offering military aid to South Korea. This is a preposterous assertion reversing black and white and the brazen sophistry of the aggressors.

That South Korea is numerically superior in military manpower is proven by population. South Korea has a greater population than the northern half of the republic. Accordingly, the number of puppet army troops is greater than that of our People's Army. As a matter of fact, there are nearly 1 million puppet army troops in South Korea. There are also more than 10 million quasi-military forces, including more than 4 million home defense reserves and more than 4.4 million militia. In addition to this, more than 40,000 U.S. imperialist aggressor forces, occupying South Korea, are seeking an opportunity for northward invasion.

While the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces and the puppet army are equipped with sophisticated U.S. weapons, our People's Army is equipped with our domestically manufactured weapons. This shows that Hayes' clamorous reference to the numerical superiority of our People's Army is a sheer lie concocted by ignoring reality.

As for the forward deployment of military troops, it is the product of the U.S. imperialists' brazen attempt to conceal their war maneuvers and to mislead public opinion. It is already known that the U.S. imperialists have forward deployed 80 to 90 percent of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces occupying South Korea and the puppet army troops in areas near the Military Demarcation Line for a war of northward invasion and have had these forces constantly assume a combat posture.

The U.S. imperialists have recently announced a plan to continue the forward deployment of the 2d Infantry Division of the U.S. imperialist aggressor forces occupying South Korea, to assign one offensive-type helicopter battalion to this division, and to establish a multiple rocket launcher support system.

While the U.S. imperialists are frantically running amok to increase the offensive capability of their aggressor force after forward deploying the majority of their force in the area near the military demarcation line. Our People's Army, after successfully completing the construction of the largest lockgate in the world, has performed labor exploits by taking charge of important targets in great socialist construction projects, including the construction of the Suncheon vinalon industrial complex and tideland reclamation.

The situation is quite different from what Ronald Hayes, commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific forces, has boisterously raved. Hayes' clamorous remarks revealed the wicked, hidden intention to indefinitely continue the rascals' military occupation of, and colonial rule over South Korea and to accelerate war preparations for northward invasion.

Today the U.S. imperialists' colonial rule faces a serious crisis in South Korea. Accordingly, while willfully ignoring the situation and while picking a quarrel with us, the U.S. imperialists are trying to maintain colonial rule by reviving puppet Chon Tu-hwan, who has been driven into a corner, by strengthening military aid to South Korea. They are trying to remedy the crisis by using the method of war in case of an emergency. The clamorous remarks of Hayes that the United States should continuously offer military aid to South Korea proceeded from this attempt. The U.S. imperialists have recently decided to furnish electronic equipment worth \$84 million to the puppets to increase the efficiency of the surface-to-air Hawk missile possessed by the South Korean puppets. This shows that the U.S. imperialists are concentrating on completing a combat posture to provoke a war in Korea at any moment and to launch a preemptive strike against the northern half of the republic.

By mobilizing vast troops numbering more than 200,000 and sophisticated military hardware, including nuclear weapons, the U.S. imperialists are in reality staging the "Team Spirit-87" war exercise, an experimental nuclear war and a preliminary war designed to deal a preemptive strike against the northern half of the republic from sky, land, and sea of South Korea. Due to the U.S. imperialists' criminal maneuvers, an extremely strained situation has developed in our country to the extent that we cannot tell when a war will be touched off.

Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists have babbled about a threat from someone and about forward deployment. This is preposterous and outrageous, further revealing the brazen nature of the rascals. Even if they have 10 mouths, the U.S. imperialists will never be able to conceal their true color as aggressors and as war maniacs, nor can they justify their reckless war maneuvers.

In accordance with the demand of all the Korean people and the peace-loving people of the world, the U.S. imperialists should stop maneuvers to provoke a new war and should withdraw from South Korea without delay.

PAPER'S COMMENTARY DENOUNCES 'TEAM SPIRIT-87'

SK250516 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2151 GMT 24 Mar 87

[NODONG SINMUN 25 March commentary: "The Fiery Clouds of a Nuclear War Are Being Brought In"]

[Text] While further clearly exposing its aggressive and dangerous nature with the passage of time, the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets is being frantically conducted. The U.S. imperialist forces of aggression occupying South Korea and the puppet forces, which were deployed forward to the fronts, are waiting for orders for mobilization. The U.S. imperialist forces of aggression, which flooded in from the U.S. mainland, Japan, and other places, are being deployed to the spot. An E-4B nuclear command aircraft of the U.S. imperialists, called an air nuclear war command and numerous other nuclear war devices are participating in this war exercise. The aircraft carrier "Ranger" of the U.S. 7th Fleet with 75 fighters, missiles, and other war devices abroad again sneaked into Pusan port. The playing with fire has already begun in units of the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression and the puppet forces. This is evidenced by the fact that the U.S. Marines and the puppet navy conducted a joint military exercise and that puppet army units conducted war exercise called the aerial mobilization operations exercise to check readiness.

We cannot overlook that the U.S. imperialist war servants and the puppets are committing belicose acts at a time when the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise is being frantically conducted. On 18 March, while babbling about someone's nonexistent provocation, Hayes, commander of the U.S. imperialist forces of aggression in the Pacific, instigated a war of northward invasion. On 22 March, during his prowling about a puppet air forces base in the central area and puppet army units on the west coast, traitor Chon Tu-hwan, tuning to the trumpet of his masters, babbled that the posture of alertness must be strengthened to prepare against someone's surprise attack. While successively prowling about puppet army guardposts, his other high-ranking cohorts, including the director of the puppet National Police Headquarters, inspired war fever.

Though the "Team Spirit" joint military exercise has been conducted in South Korea 11 times, never before has the U.S. imperialists nuclear command aircraft been mobilized, never before have the U.S. military brass hats and the South Korean puppets openly instigated a war, and never before has gun fire resounded so loudly even at the stage of deployment. All movements show that the U.S. imperialists consider the provocation of a criminal nuclear war against our republic and the socialist countries as a fait accompli and are seeking the completion of their nuclear war strategy in this joint military exercise. It is not accidental that foreign news agencies brand the "Team Spirit" war exercise as an exercise simulating an all-out nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and as a test nuclear war and a preliminary was designed to launch a preemptive strike against our republic and other countries.

At a time when we, after successively advancing various just peace proposals to provide a favorable environment for the alleviation of tension, peace, and peaceful reunification, are making every sincere effort to realize them, the U.S. imperialists and the Chon Tu-hwan ring began the provocative "Team Spirit" war exercise, thereby aggravating political confrontation and military tension between the North and the South. Their acts are an open challenge to us and are the act of defiling the wishes of the people of the world for peace in and the peaceful reunification of Korea.

Even though the U.S. imperialists and the puppets babble about alleviation, dialogue, and the maintenance of peace, the ulterior motive of the rascals is to aggravate tension at all cost, to continuously maintain South Korea as a military base, and to provoke a new war using it as a bridgehead. Nevertheless, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets babble about the heightened possibility for someone's provocation and threats of southward invasion. This is a shameless act like the thief turning on the masters with a club. The fiery clouds of a nuclear war that the rascals are bringing in show that their babbling is a lie.

Anyone can estimate that using an opportunity in which they have concentrated forces on a large scale, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets may push the button for a nuclear war of northward invasion. We heighten our vigilance against the commotion of the U.S. imperialists and the puppets for adventurous military provocation. The U.S. imperialist and the Chon Tu-hwan ring which only aggravate political confrontation and military tension, as the enemy to peace and reunification, cannot escape from denunciation at home and abroad.

CPRF INFORMATION CRITICIZES 'TEAM SPIRIT-87'

SK250541 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0522 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 25 (KCNA) -- The Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland in Information No. 387 published on March 24 notes that the U.S. imperialists have brought into bolder relief the aggressive nature and danger of the "Team Spirit 87" joint military exercises with each passing day by mobilizing large armed forces of aggression in the rehearsal.

The information points to the fact that the U.S. imperialists have brought into Yokoda base, a strongpoint of their forces in the Far East, the "E-4B" nuclear commanding plane for the first time since the start of the joint military exercises, and as many as 4,000 frontline planes, such as nuclear carrying planes, anti-submarine patrol planes, large-size transport planes of different types and air-refueling planes, and says:

It is a very ill-boding military move that the E-4B" nuclear commanding plane has been mobilized.

Mobilizing this nuclear commanding plane in the "Team Spirit 87" joint military exercises, the U.S. imperialists command such strategic operations as the operations of hurling aggression forces into South Korea from the United States, Japan and the Philippines, their landing operations and sham nuclear attack, while directing the combat action of large ground, naval and air forces and Marines more than 200,000 strong.

For the on-going exercises the U.S. imperialists have brought into Yokoda base even transport planes from an east coast base of the United States directed against Europe and, not content with this, mobilized the civilian plane "Boeing 747" and plan to mobilize Japanese military aircraft as the exercises enter a full-scale stage in the future.

All facts clearly tell that the "Team Spirit 87" joint military exercises are not a mere repetition of the previous "Team Spirit" war rehearsals but a more aggressive and dangerous war rehearsal and a more vicious test nuclear war rehearsal to start a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula and expand it into a global thermonuclear war.

NODONG SINMUN COMMENTARY ON ROK CHANGE OF POWER

SK250407 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2146 GMT 22 Mar 87

[NODONG SINMUN 23 March commentary: "Change of Power or Remaining in Power"]

[Text] The Chon Tu-hwang ring has recently more vociferously trumpeted a peaceful change of power. The U.S. imperialists have sounded out this tune. They say that traitor Chon Tu-hwan will surrender power and thus, a precedent of democratic politics will be provided.

In this connection, people say that a jackal cannot be changed into a sheep. This is true. Speaking of the puppet traitor, he is a truculent murderer, who unhesitatingly perpetrated such an atrocity of massacring fellow countrymen as the Kwangju massacre, and a fascist dictator who has picked up as much of a taste for power as he can. Will this kind of man voluntarily surrender power? Everyone will answer no to this question.

No one can conceive that the United States, the substantial ruler of South Korea, will form any other democratic regime than such a military and fascist regime as the incumbent puppet one today when its colonial rule is being faced by unprecedentedly serious crises in South Korea. A peaceful change of power in South Korea is empty talk, and the theory on democratic politics is still more fictitious.

Traitor Chon Tu-hwan and his DJP are babbling that only the parliamentary-cabinet system is the best democratic political system and that they will enforce it through constitutional revision by agreement. They are raving that in case the opposition party fails to agree in this, they will put the system into effect even by mustering different political groups. They are also clamoring that making such a grave determination as declaring a state of emergency by the authority of the president is inevitable when no agreement on revising the Constitution is reached and thus, an obstacle is laid in the way of pushing ahead with political schedules.

An official of the DJP has recently disclosed that if no agreement is made on amending the Constitution by June or July, the work of rewriting the Constitution will be postponed until after the 1988 Olympics. These claims show in a nutshell that traitor Chon Tu-hwan and the DJP caboodle have no intention of surrendering power in any case.

This becomes more obvious when the moves of the puppets are reviewed in detail. If traitor Chon Tu-hwan had any intention of surrendering power, there would be nothing else he could do but revise the Constitution providing for the direct presidential election system as demanded by the absolute majority of the popular masses and turn the Chongwadae over to a new president to be elected by the direct vote of the people. This notwithstanding, why is the Chon Tu-hwan ring bent on its scheme to institute the parliamentary-cabinet system at any cost even by resorting to a tricky method of mustering different political groups, denying the incumbent president-centered system of its own making. The DJP caboodle says that only when the current president-centered system, in which power is concentrated on the president, is abolished and the parliamentary-cabinet system is instituted, and thus, power is shared by the prime minister and the president, can democratic development be achieved. However, this is a cooked-up lie.

The DJP invented the parliamentary-cabinet system, seeing no prospects for its victory in case the president is elected directly by the voters. In other words, the system was fabricated to help traitor Chon Tu-hwan replace his presidential post with the premiership without any problem and remain in dictatorial power by making it possible to elect the ruler in the puppet National Assembly in which the DJP takes the majority of seats and which it monopolizes.

As is known, the present Constitution stipulates the single 7-year term of the president. Therefore, the puppet traitor cannot find any pretext under which he can take the position when the president-centered system is left intact. When the Constitution is revised into one providing for the parliamentary-cabinet system and he grabs the premiership, however, the puppet traitor can remain in power.

The puppets say in their bill on constitutional revision for the parliamentary cabinet system that the power should be shared by the prime minister and president. Yet they make the president a figurehead and concentrate all power, including emergency power on the prime minister. The essence of this bill boils down to allowing the puppet traitor Chon Tu-hwan to stay in power by means of grabbing the premiership through the operation of the DJP hand-raising machine at the puppet National Assembly, relinquishing the presidential office, and assigning even the seat of president, also a figurehead, to the DJP band.

They threaten that a crucial decision of the president would be issued, if the fulfillment of the political timetable were difficult, because of the absence of agreement on constitutional revision. By this, they mean to suspend the constitutional government by declaring martial law, as they themselves say. It virtually means traitor Chon Tu-hwan's coup d'etat to retake power.

The scheme behind the talk about constitutional revision after the Olympic games is also apparent. When the democratic forces' demand for constitutional revision first came to the fore in South Korea, the puppet traitor raved that the issue of constitutional revision ought to be discussed in 1989 after hosting the Olympiad. The broad opinion at home and abroad then exposed and denounced it as a scheme to retake power. People had a sufficient clue to see through such a scheme in view of the fact that traitor Chon Tu-hwan, whose term of office as president expires in February 1988, made himself honorary chairman of the Olympic games which will come after that. The puppet traitor's true scheme was to extend the term of office under the pretext of hosting the Olympiad and to retake power, after hosting the Olympiad, by staging a so-called drama of electing him [chudaeguk] with the justification that he had successfully hosted the big event.

The talk about constitutional revision after the Olympic games suggests such a scheme again, and in essence, it is a scheme to retake power. This is the truth.

Developments in South Korea clearly show that the traitor Chon Tu-hwan intends to retake power by whatever means and that a peaceful transfer of power is a camouflage for veiling this sordid ambition.

Now the traitor Chon Tu-hwan and his DJP band are engaging in all sorts of vicious maneuvers in their bid to realize long-term power. At present, they are concentrating their efforts on realizing the so-called agreement on constitutional revision. They adamantly oppose constitutional revision for a direct election system called for by the people, the opposition party, and the off-stage opposition forces, and insist only on their parliamentary cabinet system. It is not agreement but the compulsion and despotism of the DJP that hold power.

Furthermore, the puppets are viciously suppressing the opposition party's lawful political party activities, mobilizing the power of public authority, because the opposition party is obedient to the so-called agreement on constitutional revision. Typical examples of this were the puppets' suppression of the NKDP's Seoul rally to have the demand for the constitutional revision for a direct election system fulfilled and their arresting and detaining an opposition party lawmaker with nonliability privilege in connection with his remarks in the National Assembly.

They have recently ruthlessly arrested, imprisoned, tried at court, and punished the patriotic youths, students, and democratic figures opposing their fascist dictatorship, branding them as leftist and communist sympathizing forces, attempting to suppress even the opposition party, charging that it has committed leftist and communist-sympathizing activities. This is a fascist violence whereby they make little of the opposition party and, in fact, ignore its existence.

Binding the opposition party's hands and feet by use of power and urging the opposition party to agree on constitutional revision is a piratic act forcing the opposition party to give in and submit.

The maneuvers for unilateral constitutional revision which the puppets rave about enforcing by mustering various political factions in case they fail to accomplish agreement on constitutional revision are all the more mean. The DJP hooligans have revealed for some time now a scheme for constitutional revision by majority vote, saying that it is also agreement on constitutional revision. They are now making a full-fledged effort to realize such a scheme.

It is evident that the puppet clique's tactics have changed from suppression and appeasement, which it employed in dealing with the opposition party, into all-out suppression and all-out demolition. While some opposition parties are experiencing difficulties in connection with constitutional revision and other problems, the DJP band is fanning division in the opposition party, urging it to make concessions for constitutional revision. This is a mean tactic designed to demolish the opposition party, to secure the forces supporting the parliamentary cabinet system, to isolate the opposition party, and to divide and weaken the democratic forces in general.

Facts clearly show that the traitor Chon Tu-hwan and the DJP hooligans are the political machinators who will resort to any means available, fair or foul, to satisfy their greed for power. Such moves of the Chon Tu-hwan ring to retake power are zealously patronized and backed by the U.S. imperialists. The greatest interest of the U.S. imperialists is to bolster up the pro-U.S. dictatorial regime and thereby safely keep South Korea as a colony forever. That is why the U.S. imperialists offered to the Chon Tu-phwan ring the strategy of ruling-opposition compromise after the Philippine incident.

Recently, the bigwig messengers of the United States have been making frequent visits to South Korea and, advocating dialogue and negotiation between the ruling and opposition parties, they are stressing that the problem of constitutional revision should be solved not by means of violence and demonstration but through dialogue and compromise. They are also threatening that otherwise democratic development will suffer a setback. This is an open pressure compelling the patriotic democratic forces and opposition party to pull down the banner of struggle and compromise for the DJP bid for the parliamentary cabinet system.

The U.S. imperialists are also inviting the opposition party figures to the United States, engaging in maneuvers to threaten and pressure them to give up the idea of the direct election system and compromise to the puppets' bid for the parliamentary cabinet system. Commenting on this, Kim Tae-chung said that the U.S. demand to the opposition party is a compromise, the premise of which is concession. As long as the U.S. imperialists lord it over as colonial rulers, there can be no peaceful transfer of power in South Korea reflecting the will of the people.

Taking advantage of the opportunity in which the U.S. imperialist aggressors have brought in enormous armed forces for the "Team Spirit-87" joint military exercise, the Chon Tu-hwan military fascist clique is frantically attempting to suppress the people's struggle with backing of the masters' strength and to accelerate its scheme for retaking power. However, this attempt by them will certainly be frustrated.

Retaking power by traitor Chon Tu-hwan means, after all, that neither independence, democratization, nor human rights, for which the South Korean people have been yearning so much, will be realized and that the fate of being the U.S. imperialists' colonial slave and the military hooligans' fascist slave will be continuously forced upon the people.

The traitor Chon Tu-hwan and his DJP faces the people's strong rejection and denunciation because of all the antinational crimes they have committed since they took power. It is the South Korean people's consistent will that they can never tolerate the traitor Chon Tu-hwan's maneuvers for retaking power.

Foreign news reports comment that the South Korean puppet regime is seated on an active volcano which is about to explode. The Chon Tu-hwan ring's maneuvers for long-term power will only become a detonator that will bring about the people's greater resistance.

NODONG SINMUN ARTICLE CALLS FOR DCRK FOUNDING

SK241043 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1024 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Pyongyang March 24 (KCNA) -- The proposal for founding the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo, [DCRK], which is intended to link together the two parts of the country by founding a confederal state, indicates a true way of earliest and convincing solution of the question of Korea's reunification, says NODONG SINMUN today.

A signed article of the daily entitled "To Found a Confederal State Is an Original and Reasonable Programme of National Reunification" explains about the confederal state of a new form for the formation of a unified state as clarified in the proposal for founding the DCRK.

In his historical policy speech at the first session of the Eighth Supreme People's Assembly the great leader President Kim Il-song pointed out that the most reasonable way of reunifying the country independently and peacefully is to found the Democratic Confederal Republic of Koryo in accordance with the proposal set forth by the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the article says, and goes on:

The confederation clarified in the proposal for founding the DCRK is a confederation to be enforced within a homogeneous nation which is now divided into north and south in the same territory.

The proposal on linking together the two parts of the country by founding a confederal state is a proposal for national reunification based on the idea of national independence.

The originality of this proposal is manifested in the fact that it propounded for the first time in history the idea that a confederal state can be founded to achieve national unification not only in multi-national countries but also within a temporarily divided homogeneous nation.

The keynote of this proposal is that a unified national government should be established through the unity of North and South on condition that the North and the South recognize and tolerate each other's ideas and social systems, a government under which they exercise regional autonomy respectively with equal rights and duties.

This proposal is based on the unique concept that differing ideas and social systems may co-exist in one country.

It is a most reasonable reunification proposal to peacefully solve the question of national reunification in conformity with the specific conditions of our country where differing ideas and social systems exist in the North and the South; it is also a fair and aboveboard reunification proposal taking the interests of both North and South into consideration.

Our country should be reunified not by one side imposing its ideas and social system on the other.

It is an undeniable historical fact that opposing ideas and social systems have existed in the North and the South of the Korean peninsula for scores of years. It is lawful, therefore, to achieve national reunification through the establishment of a confederal state while recognizing them as they are.

Even after the unified state of confederal type is established there will be no change in the ownership existing in North and South and no one's interests will be infringed upon.

Under the leadership of the confederal government the regional governments in North and South should follow an independent policy within the limits consistent with the fundamental interests and demands of the whole nation, and strive to narrow the differences between North and South in all spheres and to achieve a uniform development of the country and the nation.

The proposal for founding the DCRK is an equitable one which defines all affairs with primary emphasis on the independent development of the nation and makes it possible for the North and the South to establish an independent, peaceful, non-aligned, unified state by pooling their efforts.

It is acceptable to any one who is opposed to national division and desires reunification and is in full accord with the desire of the world people for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification.

When a confederal state is established, the Korean people will put a period to the history of division and usher in a new era of national development and prosperity in a reunified country, independent and sovereign.

In order to accomplish the cause of national reunification by founding a confederal state, it is imperative to check and frustrate the "two Koreas" plot of the home and foreign splittists who obstruct national reunification and make South Korean society independent and democratic, stresses the article.

VNS URGES SUPPORT FOR STUDENT STRUGGLE

SK250012 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South 0300 GMT 22 Mar 87

[Talk from the "Hour for Youths and Students" program: "Let Us Turn Out To Struggle in Response to the Struggle of the Patriotic Students in Seoul"]

[Text] Youths and students, entering the new school semester in the flames of the anti-U.S. and antidictatorial struggle are blazing again on university campuses. On 20 March, more than 700 students at Seoul National University [SNU] vigorously turned out to an antidictatorial struggle for democracy and against fascism.

On that day, students from 13 universities in Seoul gathered on the SNU campus to hold a rally to found a combined student organization to overthrow the pro-U.S. dictatorial regime. At this time, approximately 1,000 riot police troops were dispatched to the SNU campus to suppress the students' rally. The riot police troops blocked the gate of the university and entered the campus, firing tear gas bombs. Then, they perpetrated the fascist atrocity of forcibly dispersing the students' rally and taking some 10 students to the police station.

The police troops not only blocked the gate of the university to prevent some 130 students who had come to participate in the students' rally from joining in the rally but also took all of these students to the police station.

Angered at the police's atrocity, the students stubbornly fought for 3 hours against them, throwing stones at them and shouting the slogans "Let us overthrow the fascist regime" and "Let us establish and convene a constitutional assembly which will be composed of workers, farmers, and representatives of the people of all strata."

Earlier, on 18 March some 300 students at Songgyungwan University in Seoul held a rally to elect the chairman of the Struggle Committee for National Democracy Against U.S. Imperialism and Military Fascism of the university and call for the convocation of a constitutional assembly. After the rally, they staged an antigovernment demonstration. In this way, students are struggling against the colonial subjugation and the fascist dictatorship in defiance of the unprecedentedly brutal suppression of the Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique.

As seen in the struggle of students at the SNU campus this time, South Korean students have struggled not only to overthrow the Chon Tu-hwan fascist regime which has frantically perpetrated fascist repression in a bid to justify the occupation by the United States of South Korea and its colonial rule there and to maintain the fascist dictatorial system, but also to build a new independent and democratic society in which the masses of people, including workers and farmers, become the masters. This is why the students who gathered at the SNU campus gallantly staged the struggle to overthrow the Chon Tu-hwan fascist clique's dictatorial rule in defiance of police suppression, shouting the slogan calling for the convocation of a constitutional assembly.

The struggle of the students at the SNU campus is a righteous and just struggle reflecting the unanimous desire and aspiration of students and the masses of people for independence and democracy and against the colonial subjugation and fascist dictatorship. Nevertheless, the Chon Tu-hwan ring infiltrated some 1,000 riot police onto the SNU campus to brutally suppress the patriotic students' struggle and finally perpetrated the fascist atrocity of taking more than 150 students to the police station.

This clearly shows that the Chon Tu-hwan ring is the fascist and dictatorial group which has more frantically run wild to realize the wild ambition for permanent power under the patronage of the United States by handing this land over to the United States as a colony. This also clearly shows once again that liberal democracy, protection of human rights, and elimination of torture that the Chon Tu-hwan ring has clamored about are an out-and-out lie and nothing but a trick designed to deceive the people.

Recently, the Chon Tu-hwan ring has tried to make campuses a place of terror where fascism is rampant not only by kicking off a wholesale arrest of patriotic students but also by reinforcing police forces on campuses in a bid to completely obliterate the students' patriotic movement. However, with no fascist suppression can the Chon Tu-hwan ring block the students' just struggle for independence, democracy, and reunification.

Opposing the colonial subjugation and fascist dictatorship and achieving independence, democracy, and reunification is the firm will of the youths, students, and all of the masses of people. As long as the U.S. colonial rule continues and the fascist dictatorial regime exists, the anti-U.S. struggle of youths and students against dictatorship will continue. This has been eloquently proven precisely by the patriotic students' struggle at SNU and Songgyungwan University this time.

Youths and students! The struggle of patriotic students at SNU and Songgyungwan University to overthrow the Chon Tu-hwan fascist regime and to call for the convocation of a constitutional assembly is a righteous and just struggle reflecting the unanimous desire of the South Korean people to live in an independent and democratic society devoid of subjugation and fascism by overthrowing the pro-U.S. Chon Tu-hwan regime.

Therefore, you, students throughout South Korea, should not turn a deaf ear to the patriotic students' struggle at SNU and Songgyungwan University. Turning a deaf ear to the patriotic students' struggle means to tolerate the fascist dictatorship of the Chon Tu-hwan ring and to allow the sovereignty of the nation, democracy, and human rights to be brutally trampled underfoot.

All youths and students throughout South Korea who have gallantly struggled against the fascist dictatorship of the Chon Tu-hwan ring should actively respond to and join the righteous struggle of patriotic students in Seoul.

When and if students in Pusan, Inchon, Kwangju, and Taegu and 1 million students throughout South Korea unanimously rise up in a gallant joint struggle together with the masses and lift up the flames of nationwide resistance for national salvation, they can overthrow the Chon Tu-hwan murderous regime without fail as they overthrew the Syngman Rhee and Pak Chong-hui regimes in the past. Therefore, you should fully display your zeal and vigor in this sacred struggle.

VNS SCORES ROK USE OF 'IMMORAL' KIM MAN-CHOL

SK240843 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 1000 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Talk by Madame Yun Chong-won from the feature program "Hour for Officers and Men of the Armed Forces": "What Are the Ruling Authorities Trying To Gain?"]

[Text] You probably already know that the Chon Tu-hwan clique is so zealous about its anticommunist and anti-North campaign that it is using human trash called Kim Man-chol. The Chon Tu-hwan ring, after luring to Seoul by force Kim Man-chol and his company, who had fled from the North in January of this year aboard a ship belonging to Chongjin Port, is now wickedly slandering the North by holding government-sponsored functions, such as press conferences, welcoming meetings, and visits to hometowns, and by dragging them to various places.

As is widely known, Kim Man-chol is human trash who has completely ignored kinship, which has existed since theer of our ancestors, much less man's fundamental courtesy and morality. He stated that his company consisted of his wife, sons, daughters, mother-in-law, and brothers-in-law. He described the wife of his brother, his sons, and his daughters -- that is, Kim's nephews and nieces -- as his own wife, sons, and daughters. He also identified the mother of the wife of his brother and the brothers and sister of his brother's wife as his mother-in-law, brothers-in-law, and sister-in-law.

Why did Kim Man-chol flee from the North, taking along with him the wife of his brother and her family members? According to what has been disclosed, Kim Man-chol has maintained immoral amorous relations with the wife of his brother for 3 to 4 years since rejecting his wife, who was suffering from a woman's disease. He was glared at by his neighbors because of his disgraceful acts.

However, while deeply maintaining amorous relations with the wife of his brother, Kim Man-chol, harboring the heinous intention to kill his wife, tried in vain to poison her in hospital. This was why Kim Man-chol fled from the North. The true color of Kim Man-chol was represented in his being extremely corrupt human trash and a would-be murderer.

Officers and men of the armed forces, if we value man's rudimentary morality and conscience, we should naturally punish and bury the person who, while taking the wife of his brother as his own wife, tried to kill his real wife as an immoral man and a would-be murderer, regardless of nationality or age. Nevertheless, the Chon Tu-hwan clique, viewing human trash and a would-be murderer like Kim Man-chol, who is inferior to a dog or pig, as a hero, has advertised him on TV screens and has been zealous about anticommunist and anti-North commotions by dragging him to various places. This is unpardonable.

No other sound than a caw is produced by a crow. By the same token, nothing other than obscene and sordid sounds are produced by the mouth of human trash. What does the Chon Tu-hwan clique expect to gain by using an extremely corrupt immoral man like Kim Man-chol, who has degraded the name of the civilized people of a country in the Far East? Its aim lies nowhere. The hidden intention of the Chon Tu-hwan clique is to remedy the political situation facing crisis in the South by diverting our people's public sentiment from the North by using such human trash as the leader of an anticommunist campaign.

The feelings of admiration for the North, which have further increased with the passage of time among our people, have become an uncontrollable trend. In particular, voices that call for abolishing an anticommunist national policy and achieving the cause of reunification by taking the hand of the North have been raised even in the National Assembly, perplexing the ruling authorities. The anticommunist tower the Chon Tu-hwan clique has maintained as its last stronghold is in the process of collapse, and public sentiment has leaned toward achieving reunification by tolerating communists. Lurking behind the military dictatorial clique's kicking up anti-North and anticommunist rackets in wickedly slandering the North by using human trash like Kim Man-chol is the hidden intention of preventing public sentiment from being attracted to the North and overcoming a critical phase.

However, the more zealously the Chon Tu-hwan clique maneuvers in an ugly and base manner, the louder the voices of the people from all walks of life will become in rejecting the anticommunist national policy and in calling for achieving reunification by forming an alliance with communists. Thus, it will be unable to prevent feelings of admiration toward the North.

The Chon Tu-hwan clique's becoming enthusiastic about anti-North propaganda by using ugly human trash is related to the situation in which its domestic affairs are unstable. As a matter of fact, the Chon Tu-hwan military dictatorial clique faces its worst crisis. Amid unprecedented fascist tyranny, the anti-U.S. and antidictatorial struggle of students and people from all walks of life has continued. In particular, the struggle has further expanded and has been stepped up, the torture and slaughter of Seoul University student Pak Chong-chol being the momentum. The anti-U.S. and antigovernment slogans throughout the country that call for the overthrow of the regime of torture and for the withdrawal of the U.S. imperialists have driven the Chon Tu-hwan regime into a corner. In particular, the spirit of opposing and rejecting the Chon Tu-hwan clique's wicked plot to fulfill the wild desire to remain in office forever by passing by force a plan to revise the Constitution that favors a parliamentary cabinet system has further increased with the passage of time among people from all walks of life, including opposition party and off-stage figures. All these facts show that the ruling crisis of the dictatorial clique, which sits on a dire extreme, has been further deepened.

Lurking behind the military dictatorial regime's frantically running amok to carry out its anti-North and anticommunist campaign by using an extremely decadent, corrupt, and immoral man is the heinous intention to achieve security of power by extricating itself from such a ruling crisis.

Officers and men of the armed forces, the Chon Tu-hwan clique's act of having such human trash as Kim Man-chol speak before our people is an intolerable act that degrades our people. Satiated with the anti-North and anticommunist commotion, the Chon Tu-hwan clique has been hellbent on an anticommunist campaign using an immoral man and would-be murderer like Kim Man-chol. This will never serve as a step to help the dictatorial regime prolong its remaining life.

BRIEFS

RETURNING DELEGATIONS -- Pyongyang March 20 (KCNA) -- The DPRK Government delegation which had attended the ministerial meeting of the Asian group of the Group of 77 held in Bangladesh, the DPRK Government trade delegation which had visited Ethiopia and the GDR, the DPRK Government cultural delegation which had visited Bulgaria and Algeria and the delegation of the Korean Trade Union of Construction and Forestry Workers which had visited the Soviet Union returned home on March 19. A delegation of the Journalism Institute of Thailand headed by its vice-director Somkuan Kaviya arrived in Pyongyang on the same day. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 0516 GMT 20 Mar 87 SK]

JAPAN RESIDENT KOREANS ARRIVE -- Pyongyang March 21 (KCNA) -- A relay group carrying a letter of loyalty from the 700,000 Koreans in Japan for celebrating the 75th birthday of the great leader Marshal Kim Il-song arrived in Wonsan today by the ship "Mangyongbong." A delegation of Kim Il-song University headed by its president Pak Kwan-o left here today for the Soviet Union. An art troupe of Koreans in Japan to participate in the fifth Pyongyang "April Spring Friendship Art Festival" scheduled for the occasion of April 15 and home-visiting groups of Korean in Japan for a visit to the socialist homeland arrived in Wonsan by the ship "Mangyongbong" on Saturday. [Text] [Pyongyang KCNA in English 1023 GMT 21 Mar 87 SK]

CHOE KWANG-SU INTERVIEWED ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

SK250025 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 87 p 1, 2

[Text] Korea is opposed to the expansion of Japan's military power beyond the level necessary for the defense of its own territory and the stabilization of Northeast Asia, Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su said last night.

Answering a question concerning Korea's position on Japan's lifting of the one-percent-of-GNP ceiling in defense expenditure during a symposium at the Press Center, Choe said Korea would be closely watching Japan's military buildup in the days ahead.

"I think Japan requires military power that is necessary for the defense of Japan and for the stability of Northeast Asia.

"Japan has lifted the ceiling on its defense expenditure, but I don't think the current military strength is beyond the appropriate level.

"We, like other Asian nations which had unhappy history involving Japan, will be gravely concerned if Japan goes beyond the confines of self-defense," the minister said.

The symposium, sponsored by the Kwanhun Club, a fraternity of senior journalists, was attended by a large number of media people and diplomats.

Minister Choe extensively reviewed Korea's relations with the United States, Japan, the non-aligned states and the nations of the Communist bloc in a keynote speech.

He said the United States recognizes the importance of solid security and sustained economic growth for Korea and has a significant interest in the socio-political stability and orderly political development which serve as the basis of the security and economic growth.

"This interest, however, is bound by the principles of mutual respect for sovereignty and non-interference. The two countries mutually recognize the point that violation of such principles would not be of help to either side," the minister said.

Apparently referring to contacts between U.S. officials and Korean opposition politicians, Minister Choe said that Koreans should depart from the ancient habit of trying to solve internal affairs with outside help.

"It is unfortunate that some people still try to settle internal problems with the help of outside force, while failing to have the correct understanding of the Korea-U.S. relationship which has entered into a genuine pattern of partnership.

"By arming ourselves with a firm conviction that we can settle our problems by ourselves, we can contribute to the development of the Korea-U.S. relationships," he stressed.

According to the minister, tension are being heightened on the Korean peninsula in spite of the many positive factors that may deter the tendency.

"North Korea is continuously building up military forces and deploying troops in front-line areas. The military alliance between North Korea and the Soviet Union has been markedly strengthened and the north is intensifying maneuvers aimed at disrupting South Korea in the face of the Olympics next year.

"Under these circumstances, we cannot rule out the possibility that North Korea may opt for militaristic adventurism, and the coming one to two years will be the most critical period," he said.

Following are questions and answers between Minister Choe and participants of the debate:

Question: Does the ROK want to draw out North Korea from isolation or press it further into isolation?

Answer: We should strive to make North Korea emerge from closed doors and major efforts are being made to persuade North Korea to join the United Nations together with the south.

Q: The United States allowed its diplomats to hold "substantial" dialogues with North Korean officials in neutral settings. Will South Korean diplomats act towards their North Korean counterparts along similar guidelines, if any?

A: Yes, we have a detailed code of conduct in this regard, but I cannot reveal it.

Q: Are you optimistic about the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue?

A: I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic. We sincerely hope to see resumption.

After all the economic growth we have achieved, we are not in a position to take the initiative in inter-Korean relations. We proposed a prime ministers' meeting, with a precondition of resuming the existing dialogue channels, on March 17. We are closely watching for North Korean response to it, with the belief that there is no reason why it should shun our latest offer.

Q: Can't we let North Korea host more sports events during the 1988 Seoul Olympics, as it wishes, in order to make it attend the Games?

A: The Olympic issue not only concerns South and North Korea but also the International Olympic Committee. When IOC president Juan Samaranch made a proposal to North Korea in March of last year, he presented the best possible offer under the IOC charter. We cannot compromise with North Korea by giving them anything that runs counter to the IOC charter and the 1981 Baden-Baden decision naming Seoul the host of 1988 Olympics.

Q: While the 1970s saw Korea and the United States experience an "uncomfortable" relationship, the past six years since the birth of the Fifth Republic witnessed the two countries enjoying a "honeymoon." Did Korea pay anything to the United States to smoothen political and security relations?

A: The two countries were uncomfortable with each other in the 70s because a representative of the Korean government violated the U.S. laws. The two countries encountered no serious problems since the launching of the Fifth Republic. I assure you that nothing has been paid for such relations. Respect for sovereignty and the principle of non-interference are more valued between friendly countries.

The amicable relationship stemmed from the mutual recognition that the stability on the Korean peninsula is essential for both countries.

Q: Have there been any consultations between Korea and high-ranking U.S. officials over the domestic political situation involving constitutional amendment?

A: The issue is one that cannot be settled by anyone but ourselves. U.S. officials have expressed hope that Korea would achieve political evolution in an orderly manner, amid stability, and in the absence of violence, but there have been no clandestine promises or discussions between the two governments over the future course of the on-going constitutional debate.

Q: What is the significance of the latest development in relations between the United States and north Korea?

A. The United States has taken a "modest initiative" in allowing diplomatic contacts with north Korean officials. The measure was announced after a rather long discussion between Seoul and Washington in the hope that the tension on the Korean peninsula in the face of the Olympics will be eased, while continuing to persuade north Korea to participate in the Games.

As the U.S. State Department said, the measure does not mean an opening of formal contacts between Washington and Pyongyang or a step closer to the north Korean-proposed tripartite talks involving South and north Korea and the United States.

Q: What is your view on Korea's opening of a liaison office in Beijing?

A: Contacts between Korea and China progressed in the non-political fields. Establishment of a liaison office may be one of the important ways of expanding our relations. However, we will take a cautious, step-by-step approach in our contacts with China and the Soviet Union. The Korea-China relations have yet grow to a level deserving a liaison office.

Q: Don't you think now is the time when Korea should retrieve the operation control over its own forces from the United States? Can you call Korea and the United States equal partners when Korean forces are under the control of a U.S. commander?

A: The two countries have been continuing consultations concerning the command structure, but I don't think the current system will change in the near future.

American commanders stationed in Brussels have the operational control over the NATO forces, but no one says the United States and the NATO allies are unequal partners.

Q: Don't you think the military ties between the Soviet Union and north Korea may help curb north Korea's aggressiveness towards South Korea?

A: It is one of our diplomatic goals to let the Soviet Union deter any militaristic adventurism on the part of north Korea. But there have yet been signs of such an effect.

Q: Is it true that Gen. John Singlaub, Ret., asked Korea and Taiwan to donate \$10 million for the support of the Contras in Nicaragua?

A: I don't know if Mr. Singlaub met any one of our 40 million people, but on the government level, we have never received such a request.

Q: Will the Japanese crown prince visit Korea in return for President Chon's visit to Japan in 1984?

A: Seoul and Tokyo discussed the matter last year but postponed it because of the princess' health reasons. The subject is still pending.

25 Mar AFP Report

BK250440 Hong Kong AFP in English 0420 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Seoul, March 25 (AFP) -- South Korea wants to increase substantively contacts and exchanges with China in such non-political field as trade, sports, and academic matters, according to Foreign Minister Choe Kwang-su. Seoul attached great importance to improving ties with neighboring countries such as China, with the aim of promoting peace and stability in the region, Mr. Choe told a South Korean Journalists Association gathering late Tuesday.

"We hope our substantive relations (with China) could develop into a high-dimensional level," he said. But he added: "We will not deal hastily [with] the problem of improving ties with China, but steadily with patience."

Mr. Choe said there was a high possibility that China and the Soviet Union would "reconsider" their existing policy and seek to improve relations with South Korea after the Seoul Olympics next year. He recalled that West Germany's policy of improving ties with the Soviet Union succeeded after West Germany hosted the Munich Olympics in 1972. Beijing and Moscow have not yet officially announced whether they will take part in the Seoul games.

South Korea does not have formal diplomatic relations with China, which is politically close to North Korea. Asked about the possibility of South Korea establishing a liaison office in Beijing, Mr. Choe replied that this might be one of the important ways of expanding relations, but that relations between the two countries had not yet grown to a level deserving a liaison office. Mr. Choe said that Seoul would not want to diplomatically isolate North Korea, wanted to draw it to become a member of the international community so that the two Koreas could simultaneously join the United Nations. North Korea has opposed the idea of both Koreas becoming the U.N. members, arguing that it would perpetuate the division of the country.

DJP POSTPONES PLAN FOR INTERPARTY TALKS

SK250035 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] The ruling Democratic Justice Party decided yesterday to watch developments within the opposition New Korea Democratic Party before making any move to open an extra National Assembly session in April.

Accordingly, the ruling party decided to postpone full-fledged negotiations between party floor leaders until next week.

The decision came amid escalation of the feud within the main opposition party over the party presidency.

In a meeting of officials, the DJP concluded that any contacts with the NKDP won't bring substantial results until the main opposition party recovers from its infighting.

This position was reflected in a party floor strategy meeting attended by the floor leader, vice floor leaders and chairmen of the Assembly standing committees.

The DJP, however, reconfirmed its earlier position that it will continue efforts to hold a special Assembly sitting in April, while endeavoring to normalize the special constitutional panel.

Party floor leader Yi Han-tong said that he will wait until next week to decide whether to meet with NKDP floor leader Kim Hyon-kyu to negotiate the opening of the sitting.

"The NKDP has hardened its attitude toward us over the prison terms on its Reps. Pak Chan-chong and Cho Sun-hyong, besides its intraparty disputes," he said.

NKDP'S 6-MEMBER PANEL VOWS TO UNITE PARTY

SK250032 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 25 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] The newly-born six-member committee of the New Korea Democratic Party [NDP] declared yesterday that it will make efforts to further consolidate the unity of mainstreamers by Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam for a smooth national convention in May.

After its first meeting at Restaurant Kyonghyang, NDP vice president Choe Hyong-wu told reporters, "We see that the scheduled convention faces serious problems. So, we will discuss ways of holding the convention in a smooth manner."

He noted that the panel was assigned to promote communications between the Sangdo-dong and Tonggyo-dong factions which are led by Kim Tae-chung and Kim Yong-sam, respectively, and stop bickering within the party.

Choe added that the panel will also fight plots to disunite the NDP and to achieve NDP's takeover of power.

The six-member committee is composed of three from each of the two major factions. They were Choe, Kim Tong-yong, Pak Yong-man from the Sangdo-dong faction and Yi Chung-chae, Yi Yong-hui and Kim Yong-pae from the Tonggyo-dong group.

Rep. Yi Chong-chae said the convention faces a crisis as the nonmainstreamers are strongly resisting the mainstreamers' move to take disciplinary action against Rep. Yi Chol-sung.

"The minority members are demanding that they (the two Kims) leave the party. Therefore, we are afraid that the convention may not be held smoothly."

Rep. Yi Chol-sung, a minority leader, is criticized by the majority force for supporting the parliamentary cabinet system.

Yi Chung-chaee, a vice president, noted that a caucus Monday demanded that Rep. Yi make an apology for his remarks or leave the party voluntarily.

In the projected national convention in May, the mainstreamers plan to replace incumbent NDP president Yi Min-u with party advisor Kim Yong-sam.

Asked how long the committee will exist, Yi said that its task will be completed after the convention.

POLITICAL SETTLEMENT ON LAWMAKERS REQUESTED

SK250011 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 25 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Yi Min-u, president of the New Korea Democratic Party, yesterday visited National Assembly Speaker Yi Chai-hyong and asked for a political settlement of the issue involving two opposition lawmakers accused of instigating campus unrest.

The prosecution demanded last Thursday three years' imprisonment for Rep. Pak Chan-chong and two and a half years in prison for Rep. Cho Sun-hyong on charges of violating the Law Governing Assemblage and Demonstration.

During the meeting, opposition leader Yi asked that the speaker spearhead efforts to settle the issue in a political way. He pointed that the conviction will virtually put an end to the political life of the two opposition lawmakers.

Alleging that the ongoing trials for Pak and Cho are unfair, Yi said his party will be forced to make a "grave decision" if the two are convicted.

At this, the speaker offered to arrange a meeting between Yi and No Tae-u, chairman of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, to help settle the issue.

The DJP, however, reacted negatively to Yi's offer to arrange a meeting between the two rival-party leaders.

"We cannot accept the call for No-Yi talks if they are related to the trial of the two opposition lawmakers. The trial is not a matter to be politically settled," said a DJP official.

According to the National Assembly Law, a legislator will lose his Assembly seat when convicted.

Pak and Cho are accused of instigating a student demonstration at Korea University in September 1985. Sentencing for the two is scheduled to be delivered at a trial tomorrow.

THAI PEACE DELEGATION DEPARTS VIENTIANE 24 MAR

BK250238 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] On the morning of 24 March, the delegation of the Thai Program for Peace and Development left Vientiane for home after concluding its 9-day visit to the LPDR at the invitation of the Lao Committee for World Peace and for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Nations. On hand to see the delegation off were Hiam Phommachan, vice chairman of the Lao peace committee, and some cadres concerned.

During its visit, the Thai peace delegation paid a courtesy call on Phoumi Vongvichit, acting president of the LPDR and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers. It also met with Singkapo Sikhotchounnamali, chairman of the Lao Committee for World Peace and for Solidarity and Friendship With Other Nations. In addition, it visited some economic and cultural establishments in Vientiane municipality and Luang Prabang Province where it received a warm welcome from Lao cadres concerned.

REPORT ON USSR ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINESE COUNTRIES

BK230615 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Feature: "A New Type of Relations Between the USSR and the Indochinese Countries"]

[Text] For many years the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have given assistance to Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia in developing their respective national economies. The Soviet assistance to the three countries of Indochina has become even more extensive and significant. The Soviet Union has accelerated efforts in Laos, whose material and technical foundations remain low, to create necessary conditions for continued industrial development, such as electrical energy, the construction industry, agricultural production, and production in other fields. In the past more than 10 years, with assistance from the Soviet Union, an estimated 60 projects have been launched in Laos, including the construction of the Route 9 highway, the construction of the Nam Ngum and Nam Kading bridges, the establishment of the state transport system, the establishment of the Latsen Livestock Breeding Station, the installation of a ground satellite telecommunications station, and the establishment of an auto repair shop.. As for the current 5-year plan, the Soviet Union plans to continue assisting the LPDR to consolidate transport and agricultural foundations, to broaden export potentials, and develop public health and education work.

With regard to the Soviet assistance to the SRV, the two countries signed the first agreement on economic and technical cooperation on 18 July 1955. Since then, with the assistance of the Soviet Union, more than 200 construction projects have been established to serve as foundations of the national economy. At present, the Soviet Union has continued its cooperation with and assistance to the SRV in building more than 100 projects -- the largest of which is the construction of hydroelectric dams.

Immediately after the toppling of genocidal Pol Pot clique, the Soviet Union rendered assistance to the Cambodian people. Since then, the Soviet Union has assisted the PRK in restoring many enterprises in that country, such as the rehabilitation of Kompong Som seaport and the construction of hospitals, electricity-generating plants, advanced technical institutes, agricultural institutes, and vocational training schools. From 1986 to 1990, the Soviet Union plans to continue rendering assistance to the PRK in building irrigation networks, agricultural experimental stations, roads, oil depots, and auto and boat repair workshops.

While giving technical and economic assistance to the three Indochinese countries to build foundations for their respective national economies, the Soviet Union has also helped train technicians and specialists for them as well. The Soviet Union has also sent its outstanding experts to Laos, Vietnam, and Cambodia to teach Lao technicians and to contribute their expertise to the construction projects in these countries. The sincere assistance from the Soviet Union on the basis of proletarian internationalism has gradually improved the economies of the three Indochinese countries.

PHOUMI VONGVICHIT GREETES PAKISTAN ON NATIONAL DAY

BK241057 Vientiane KPL in English 0910 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Vientiane, March 24 (KPL) -- Phoumi Vongvichit, acting-president of the Lao PDR, sent on March 23 a message of greetings to President Mohammad Ziaul Haq on the occasion of the national day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The message wrote:

"On the occasion of the national day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, on behalf of the Lao people, the government of the Lao PDR, and in my own name, I would like to express my warm congratulations and wishes to Your Excellency and to the Pakistani Government and people."

HUNGARIAN FRONT DELEGATION ARRIVES 24 MAR

BK250242 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] At the invitation of the Lao Front for National Construction's [LFNC] Central Committee, a delegation of the Patriotic People's Front of the Hungarian People's Republic led by its secretary, Robert Ribanszki, who is also vice chairman of the Hungarian Committee for Solidarity With Other Nations, arrived in Vientiane on the afternoon of 24 March for an official friendship visit to the LPDR.

On hand to welcome the delegation at the airport were Bolang Boualapha, member of the LPRP Central Committee and vice chairman and standing member of the LFNC Central Committee, and some cadres concerned. Hungarian Ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Laos Laszlo Rosta and embassy officials were present.

CONFERENCE ON GEOLOGICAL COOPERATION OPENS

BK241044 Vientiane KPL in English 0917 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Vientiane, March 24 (KPL) -- Laos, Vietnam and Kampuchea have opened here today their second conference on geological cooperation. The agenda of this two-day conference includes reports on the execution of their geological and mining cooperation plans reached at the first conference held in 1984, in Ho Chi Minh City. Issues on planning of their cooperation in this field up to 1990 are also to be discussed.

Heading the Lao delegation at the conference is Soulivong Dalavong, deputy minister of industry and handicraft. The Kampuchean and Vietnamese delegations are led by Prang and Pham Quoc Tuong, deputy industry minister of Kampuchea and [Deputy Vietnamese Minister] mining respectively. The Kampuchea and Vietnamese delegations arrived here Saturday.

U.S. PROTEST OF HMONG REPATRIATION CRITICIZED

Deputy Minister Comments

BK241029 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 24 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Responding to questions on the UN High Commission for Refugees' denunciation of Thailand's repatriation of Hmong to Laos, Deputy Foreign Minister Second Lieutenant Praphat Limpaphan said that the United States has no right to meddle in Thailand's internal affairs. Thailand's repatriation of illegal refugees is correct because it is the same situation as the United States keeping Mexicans out of its territory. It may affect the country's security if there are too many refugees in Thailand.

Daily on U.S. Protest

BK250758 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 25 Mar 87 p 1

[Text] Thailand is no client state of the United States and the U.S. protest over the alleged forced repatriation of Hmong refugees was an act unbecoming a good friend, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said this morning.

The U.S. should have consulted Thailand first before making the accusation in public, Air Chief Marshal Sitthi added.

Moreover, U.S. authorities could have gone to Laos which is the root cause of the problem, he pointed out.

The U.S. State Department last week deplored as a serious case of human rights abuse the alleged turnover of up to 38 Hmong refugees to Lao authorities last March 15.

Thailand rejected charges of forced repatriation saying the Hmongs, who had entered the country illegally, voluntarily returned to Laos because they saw little chance of being resettled in a third country.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for Interior, Charoenchit na Songkhla this morning said another 70 Hmong, arrested at the same time as the 38 on similar charges, also faced repatriation.

Noting that the measure was an internal affair to Thailand and based on national security reasons, Mr Charoenchit said the timing of this repatriation would be decided following consultations with the National Security Council and a report from Loei provincial authorities.

The Thai Ambassador to the U.S. Asa Sarasin was called in over the weekend by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State John Whitehead to discuss the issue of alleged forced repatriation of the 38 Hmong.

According to ACM Sitthi, the State Department protested the Thai action as excessive. Dr Asa countered by saying that Thailand is no client state of the U.S. and ACM Sitthi said he agreed with him.

The U.S. should not use Congress to pressure Thailand and if it has information that it questions in hand it should consult Thai authorities first before going public with an accusation, the minister stressed.

The minister pointed out that Thailand was shouldering a huge refugee load with some 5,000 Hmong now at the border and ready to cross into country at any time.

Noting that some 1,500 Hmong illegally entered Thailand recently, he asked why the U.S. did not take more refugees.

The minister however thanked Senator Hatfield -- initiator of a bill seeking additional assistance for refugees in Thailand -- for his understanding of Thailand's refugee problems.

But he regretted that not all Americans understood Thailand's problems.

Repatriation Plan Reaffirmed

BK250532 Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 25 Mar 87 p 16

[Text] A diplomatic source disclosed that on 23 March the Thai Government reaffirmed its plan to repatriate to Laos another 70 Hmong refugees who entered Thailand illegally. This is in line with Thailand's policy of screening refugees based on humanitarian principles and national security. The source also said that U.S. State Department Spokesman Charles Redman reported on 23 March that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Whitehead had met with Thai Ambassador to Washington Asa Sarasin to discuss Thailand's repatriation of the Hmongs to Laos.

LAO FOREIGN MINISTER SOUBAN SALITTHILAT ARRIVES

BK240708 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpts] At 0930 this morning Deputy Lao Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat and party arrived at the Bangkok Airport for a visit to Thailand as guests of the Thai Government. Public Relations Department correspondent Worathat Chitsawat reports:

[Begin Worathat recording] A Lao government delegation of 17, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Souban Salitthilat, has arrived for an official visit to Thailand 24-28 March. The delegation will meet with a 27-strong Thai delegation led by Dr Arun Phanuphong, the foreign affairs advisor to the prime minister. The upcoming discussion between the two delegations is the result of the invitation extended by the Thai delegation during the meeting held 27-29 November last in Vientiane. [end recording]
[passage omitted]

After the Lao delegation arrived, it was escorted by the Thai delegation to the VIP reception room where the head of the Thai delegation shook hands with and placed garlands on every member of the Lao delegation. The Lao deputy foreign minister then made a statement to the waiting reporters.

[Begin Souban recording in Lao] The objective of our visit to Thailand is to hold the first round of talks here as a continuation of the first round of talks held in Vientiane. Therefore, the statement will tell you all about the intention of the Lao Government to send our delegation to hold talks for the 2d time with the Thai delegation in order to resolve -- (?please distribute the statement) -- the questions we discussed in Vientiane, which were regarded as the key issues and a basis for proceeding to developing cooperation in various fields. I think these issues are important. Only by resolving these questions will our cooperation grow. We will try our utmost to resolve these questions so as to gradually improve the Lao-Thai relations on the basis of the two 1979 joint communiques which were reaffirmed by Dr Arun Phanuphong as being highly valuable documents guiding the foreign policies of the two countries with regard to the Lao-Thai relations. [end recording]

SITTHI ON USSR'S CONTINUED SUPPORT OF SRV

BK240132 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 24 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] ASEAN cannot accept the Soviet Union's continued support of Vietnamese interference in Kampuchea, Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila said yesterday.

ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Sitthi recalled that British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher asked him during his talks in London about the recent visit to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze to this region.

ACM Sitthi said he told Mrs Thatcher he was surprised that Moscow accepted that the Kampuchean issue was a problem which had to be tackled.

"However, we realised shortly afterwards that they were still supporting Vietnam because of the visit to Vientiane and Hanoi."

ACM Sitthi said British Defence Minister George Younger, here as guest of the Defence Ministry, yesterday reaffirmed that Mrs Thatcher would raise the Kampuchean issue with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev during her visit to Moscow this month.

ASEAN and the EEC were watching the Soviet Union, which, he said, was in the midst of social and economic reforms brought on by severe economic difficulties because of foreign military support.

"ASEAN and the EEC are keeping a close watch on Soviet leaders as to how they will lead their country for the benefit of all countries," he said.

The minister said he would visit the Soviet Union on May 10-14 and proceed to Czechoslovakia, East Germany and Poland.

FOUR FISHING BOATS CAPTURED BY CAMBODIANS

BK210848 Bangkok BANGKOK WORLD in English 21 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] Four Thai fishing vessels were captured by Khmer boats during the last month and the fate of the captured vessels and their crew members are still unknown, Secretary of the Royal Thai Navy Rear Admiral Dilok Phattharakoson said yesterday.

The captured boats are believed to have been modified into military boats, he said.

Rear Admiral Dilok said that the Royal Thai Navy had repeated warnings to Thai fishing boats in the territorial waters of Chanthaburi and Trat provinces on Vietnamese boats reportedly equipped with weapons and reportedly waiting to capture Thai boats, he said.

He also said that during the past month, a total of 327 Kampuchean people fled to Thailand arriving by boat to Trat Province and 299 others arrived by boat to Surat Thani, Nakhon Si Thammarat and Pattani provinces.

In a separate report, a group of Fishery Association presidents in the southern provinces yesterday discussed measures to prevent Thai fishing vessels from being captured by a foreign country. They will also submit a letter to the Government asking it to lodge a protest against the Malaysian Government which it claimed recently unfairly captured Thai fishing boats.

CAMBODIAN BORDER SITUATION 6-12 MAR REPORTED

BK201320 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Text] The Supreme Command Information Office has reported on the Thai-Cambodian border situation during the period from 6 to 12 March. It said that Vietnamese artillery shells had landed in Khlong Hat Subdistrict of Prachin Buri Province on many occasions and had landed sporadically in Pong Nam Ron District of Chanthaburi Province and Boi Rai District of Trat Province. There were no casualties. During the period, Vietnam implemented the B-6 plan by using its forces based opposite to Ta Praya District of Prachin Buri Province to suppress the CGDK forces in Battambang Province.

As for the battle situation inside Cambodia, the CGDK forces have continued their operations in Samraong, Chongkal, and Srei Snam Districts of Siem Reap-Oddar meanchey Province; and Sangke, Mounge Russei, Mongkolborei, and Rattanamondol Districts of Battambang Province.

Border Situation 13-17 Mar

BK240851 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The Supreme Command Information Office has reported on the situation along the Thai-Cambodia border for the past week, from 13 to 17 March. It said that Vietnam had sent a number of personnel and weapons to reinforce an area opposite Chon Chan Daen of Ban Kruat District of Buriram Province. In addition, Vietnamese troops sneaked into Thai territory to plant mines along the border in Khlong Hat Subdistrict of Prachin Buri Province.

As for the situation along the Thai-Cambodian border, artillery shells from Vietnamese troops landed in Khlong Hat Subdistrict of Prachin Buri Province, Bo Rai District of Trat Province, Pong Nam Ron District of Chanthaburi Province, and Khun Han District of Sisaket Province on many occasions, damaging a number of houses.

Defense Units Dispatched

BK240134 Bangkok THE NATION in English 24 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Aranyaprathet -- Border defence forces yesterday dispatched three special units to hunt for a band of Khmer bandits who have been terrorizing villagers along the Thai-Kampuchean border, a senior military officer said.

Col Bandit Malaiatisun, deputy commander of Burapha Force, told reporters that the three crack units, comprising 120 soldiers from the 312th Special Battalion, are now on a search-and-destroy mission against the bandits on the Bantat mountain range, which separates Thailand from Kampuchea.

Col Bandit said about 60 deserters from the Kampuchean resistance army of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) are hiding in a former base of the communist insurgents in "Sra Sam" on the mountainous border in Ta Phraya District, north of here.

The Khmers last week robbed several vehicles along a Phraya-Buri Ram highway which runs parallel to the Bantad mountain, prompting the authorities to set up checkpoints in the area. The Khmer bandits also kidnapped a 12 villagers for ransome last Thursday.

The officer said the bandits were believed to be under the command of a guerrilla chief, Chea Chutt. Chea Chutt, who was the former commander of the KPNLF's Nong Chan encampment before it fell to the Vietnamese during the 1984-1985 dry season offensive, is widely known for his involvement in a black marketeering in the border area.

He said the Khmer bandits were recently spotted on the mountain and he predicted that the special units should be able to track them down within a week.

Col Bandit also disclosed that about 40 armed KPNLF deserts have joined some local villagers in Ban Khok-rakha Village in several robberies in the border area.

He said that local authorities know the names of the Thai villagers who supported the Khmer robbers and are searching for them.

Thwon Photisombat, Ta Phrava district chief, said about 450 rangers, defence volunteers border patrol, provincial policemen and soldiers are taking part in the suppression against the bandits.

He said the government forces are blocking several jungle routes between the mountain range and the highway and Site II a huge evacuation area sheltering over 130,000 displaced Khmers to prevent the bandits from fleeing into the camp.

However, many Khmer deserters have recently fled to Lampania area near Baranae border pass which is under the jurisdiction of the Second Army Region.

The special units, which are under the command of the First Army Region, are reluctant to pursue the Khmer deserters in the areas outside their jurisdiction he said.

The assignment of the special forces to trace down the bandits signalled the governments intention to improve security for local villagers and refugees along the border.

OFFICIAL SAYS MALAYSIA BEGINS DISMANTLING FENCE

BK190322 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 19 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Yala -- Malaysia has begun to dismantle part of its border fence which intruded into Thai territory by mistake, a government official said yesterday.

The fence intrudes into Thai territory at 13 points between border markers 51 and 52, with the area of encroachment between seven and 500 square metres, the official said.

"Some of the fence has already been dismantled by Malaysia and the work will be completed soon," he said.

Malaysia, he said, is waiting for Thai officers from the Army Survey Department to jointly check the border line to prevent any further encroachment.

The officer said the mistake was made by a private construction company in Malaysia which was hired to build the fence. The fence, which costs about 400 million baht and is about 14 kilometres long, is aimed at preventing Communist Party of Malaya insurgents from crossing between Thailand and Malaysia.

TRADE DELEGATION VISITS POLAND, BELGIUM

BK181425 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 18 Mar 87

[Text] Commerce Minister Montri Phongphanit, who is currently leading a trade delegation on a visit to European countries from 3 to 21 March, was in Poland last week. The Thai and Polish delegations have pledged to increase bilateral trade to reach the target of \$50 million in 1988. Poland has shown interest in buying para rubber from Thailand on a long term basis. Other Thai commodities such as rice, textile products, fluorite, and barite also have good potential in the Polish market. Regarding the barter trade between the two countries, Poland has offered to exchange passenger-car chassis for Thai rice.

In Belgium, the Thai delegation held negotiations with the European Community Commission. Both sides have learned more about other's problems and agreed to help each other solve them. The Belgian commerce minister and the Thai delegation acknowledged that trade between the two countries has not increased and has even tended to decline when compared with last year and agreed to jointly try to overcome the obstacles to bilateral trade. Belgium will send its livestock and public health officials to Thailand in May to observe the frozen chicken industry in Thailand. Should they find that the quality of Thai frozen chicken is acceptable; Thailand will be able to open the Belgian market for this product.

Belgium will also send an economic delegation to visit Thailand in June to further expand trade and investment relations with Thailand. The delegation will be headed by Prince Albert, who visited Thailand once before in March 1986.

UK DEFENSE SECRETARY ARRIVES FOR 3-DAY VISIT

BK231310 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] UK Defense Secretary George Younger arrived in Bangkok today for a 3-day visit from 23 to 25 March as a guest of Thai Defense Minister, Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat. The visit to Thailand is part of the UK Defense Minister's tour of Southeast Asia which will take him to Thailand, Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore. He will discuss with Thai officials matters of mutual interest.

While in Thailand he is scheduled to call on Deputy Prime Minister General Thianchai Sirisamphan and Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal Sitthi Sawetsila. He will also hold talks with Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat, Supreme Commander Admiral Supha Khotchaseni, Army Commander Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, and Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Praphan Thupatemi for briefings on the Thai-Cambodian border and Thailand's general security situation.

Meets With Defense Minister

BK240652 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Defense Minister Air Chief Marshal Phaniang Kantarat told newsmen at Government House that his meeting with visiting UK Defense Secretary George Younger yesterday did not include discussions about the purchase of weapons, the UK visitor merely inquired about Thai law concerning arms purchasing. Phaniang said the defense secretary and he discussed general issues and Thai-UK cooperation as the UK has provided continued assistance to Thailand, mainly in education of Thai soldiers, and Thailand has bought some weapons from the UK.

Meets With Foreign Minister

BK241156 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] UK Defense Secretary George Younger met with Deputy Prime Minister General Thianchai Sirisamphan on Monday [23 March], and pledged that Britain is ready to assist Thailand militarily. During the meeting, the UK defense secretary confirmed that UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher will raise the Cambodian issue in her talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev when the UK premier visits Moscow later this month.

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister General Thianchai told George Younger that the Cambodian problem has a great effect on Thailand's security but still receives little attention from the international community.

After that, George Younger, who is on a 4-nation tour of Southeast Asia, met Foreign Minister Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Sitthi Sawetsila and Supreme Commander Admiral Supha Khotchaseni. After the meeting, Foreign Minister ACM Shitthi said that ASEAN cannot accept the Soviet Union's continued support for Vietnamese interference in Cambodia. He also disclosed that both ASEAN and the EEC are watching the Soviet Union, which is facing economic problems because of its policy of foreign military support, as well as keeping a close watch on Soviet leaders to see whether they lead their country in a way beneficial to all countries.

After his visit to Thailand, the UK defense secretary will visit Brunei, Malaysia, and Singapore.

Meets With Army Commander

BK241506 Bangkok Television Service in Thai 1300 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Excerpts] At the Army's meeting hall this morning, Army Commander in Chief General Chawalit Yungchaiyut received a delegation from Pepperdine University in the United States led by (?Dr M. Norwel Young), and his wife and faculty members, who are here to present the Army commander in chief an honorary doctorate of laws. [passage omitted]

Later, visiting UK Defense Secretary George Younger and his delegation called on the Army commander in chief. The meeting was also attended by senior military officers. The UK defense secretary's visit is aimed at obtaining from Thailand information on the security situation in this region as well as the Cambodian issue.

PRIME MINISTER REVIEWS VISITS TO EUROPE, EGYPT

BK201045 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 20 Mar 87

[Report on news conference given by Prime Minister General Prem Tinsulanon upon his arrival at Royal Thai Air Force Command in Bangkok at 0745 on 20 March]

[Text] [Begin Prem recording] In all the countries I visited, I tried to explain to their leaders the problem of Cambodia. I told them the same message but more intensively and concisely than before. I pointed out that, in our opinion, the problem has not received enough attention from large or distant countries. Thailand would like to see those countries pay greater attention to the Cambodian problem. We think that all problems are of the same importance wherever they may be because they involve world peace, and so they should be solved simultaneously on the basis of internationally accepted principles, especially UN resolutions. I tried to emphasize this point to all the leaders of the countries I visited.

Prime Minister Thatcher was very sympathetic toward Thailand. She met with the foreign minister and me for about an hour. Her questions were on issues that we ourselves had prepared to discuss with her. For example, on political matters, she began by asking us about developments regarding Cambodia. I reported to her in detail on the situation there:

I first told her about the situation in Cambodia, by which we have been affected for 8 years. We have had to spend a considerable sum of money. Our people have been killed. I told her that I would like to be frank with her. I then pointed out to her that the Cambodian problem has drawn less attention from other countries than those involving Afghanistan, the Iran-Iraq war, and the Middle East. Thailand would like to see the Cambodian problem receive equal treatment from other countries. I told her that a sin is the same everywhere, and it must be dealt with everywhere in the same way. No sin is larger or smaller. They are all the same. We ask them, therefore, not to think of the Cambodian problem as a small one involving only this region. It is a problem that creates difficulties and miseries just like any other. In fact, she understands the problem in Cambodia well. I told her that I believe the solution to the Cambodian problem will be much easier and quicker if countries pay more attention to it.

The British prime minister told the foreign minister and me that she will visit [words indistinct] late this month and meet with the general secretary. She said that she will bring the matter up for talks with him. That pleased us -- to learn that the countries that are more or less involved in the matter will discuss it. I tried to emphasize this problem to the leaders in those countries, and I am confident that from now on the Cambodian problem will receive more attention internationally and will be better taken care of. [end recording]

In addition to successful talks on the Cambodian problem, during his visit to the Netherlands the prime minister won sympathy from that country, which pledged to resettle 100 refugees from Thailand.

[Begin Prem recording] We told the Netherlands that the resettlement of refugees in third countries has slowed down lately. The Netherlands has sympathy for us, and promised to take 100 of them for resettlement, particularly the old and the crippled who are ignored by other countries.

The prime minister was highly successful in trade talks during this trip. Those from the private sector accompanying him received orders worth 357 million baht. The mission is expected to be able to negotiate exports of another 1 billion baht worth of goods during this trip. The mission also engaged in talks to prevent protectionism and pave the way for tapioca exports to the EEC. Commerce Minister Montri Phongphanit held talks with the EEC on tapioca exports because Thailand recently encountered problem in its tapioca exports to the EEC. As a result of the talks, the problem has now been cleared up. During talks with the prime ministers of the countries he visited, Gen Prem Tinsulanon brought up for discussion Thailand's trade problems with EEC countries, especially those involving protectionism and tariff adjustments. Those countries, including the Netherlands, promised to help Thailand solve those problems.

[Begin Prem recording] The Netherlands, which is a major EEC country, is interested in problems involving the EEC. I told the Netherlands' prime minister that Thailand wants only a truly free trade practice based on fairness. He expressed understanding of our problem and promised to help us.

We also held discussions with Spain, an important country in the EEC, about the problems of tariffs and trade with the EEC countries. We discussed a harmonized system of nomenclature [preceding four words in English] with them. This has created confusion and problems for other countries, especially Thailand, concerning several categories of goods, particularly farm products. We have asked them to maintain the old tariff system for a certain time so that we can study the new system first. We told Spain about our request for free and fair trade in farm products, the question I had already raised with the Netherlands. We also asked for Spanish support regarding our rice exports to the EEC. We asked for what is called in English most favored nation treatment [preceeding four words in English] which other countries enjoy. [end recording]

Gen Prem Tinsulanon said that he saw bright prospects for several Thai exports, especially bicycles, during this trip. He said those countries are interested in investing in Thailand because Thailand has cheap labor and Thai workers are well disciplined and ready to learn. Projects discussed during the trip include production of television picture tubes and fluoride, for example. Tourism is another subject of interest. Thailand and Spain held talks on expansion of aviation routes.

[Begin Prem recording] What is interesting is our agreement with Spain on aviation routes -- the Bangkok-Rome-Madrid and the Madrid-Rome-Bangkok routes -- which will be inaugurated on 5 December this year. The Spanish prime minister said he will consider 5 December as Thai-Spanish communications day. [end recording]

Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon said his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, and Spain has been successful thanks to cooperation between the government and the private sector, which tried to best achieve benefits for the country.

[Begin Prem recording] I must stress here that our success owes a great deal to the efforts and sacrifices made by the private sector. I must praise them here. This is the eighth time that the private sector has accompanied us on such a trip. We do not know now who is from the government and who is from the private sector because we closely worked together for the country.

In addition to what is reported to you, I also met with the Thai community in each of the four countries I visited. I told them about our country and our problems. I emphasized to them that they must uphold the honor of the Thai people. I am very proud of having the opportunity to talk to the Thai in those countries. They showed great concern and interest for their country. They asked me interesting questions. We exchanged views frankly. They all love Thailand and are always eager to serve their country.

I would like to conclude that we, from the government as well as the private sector, are proud of having accomplished this mission for our country. We were determined to do our duty as well as possible, and we have achieved satisfactory results from our efforts. We worked hard, not for the benefit of the government or for any of us, but for the country as a whole. I am confident that our accomplishments will benefit the poor in our country as well. [end recording]

ROYAL DECREE CONVENES 1987 PARLIAMENT SESSION

BK200942 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 1300 GMT 19 Mar 87

[11 March royal decree convening first ordinary parliamentary session of 1987]

[Text] Royal signature: Phumiphon Adunyadet, Rex, given on 11 March 1987, the 42d year of the present reign.

By the royal command of His Majesty King Phumiphon Adunyadet, it is hereby proclaimed that:

As the House of Representatives has set the first ordinary parliamentary session of 1987 on 1 April in accordance with Article 115 of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Thailand, his majesty the king, empowered by Articles 117, 120, and 159 of the Constitution, has graciously ordered a royal decree to be issued convening the first ordinary parliamentary session of 1987 on 1 April 1987.

Countersigned by General Prem Tinsulanon, Prime Minister

WEAPONS CONFISCATED NEAR BURMESE BORDER

BK220908 Bangkok NAE0 NA in Thai 21 Mar 87 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to Police General Narong Mahanon, director general of the Police Department, he received a report today from the Kanchanaburi provincial police superintendent that the police at the checkpoint in Village Group 3, Tambon Nong Ngu, Sangkhla Buri District stopped a pickup truck which was found to be carrying 8 RPG rounds, 77 AK-47 rounds, 1 M-79 with 30 rounds of ammunition, 8 sticks of RPG propellant, and a 9-mm pistol with 8 rounds of ammunition. Three people on the truck -- Mat Abun, Butda Butra, and Chaleo Charoenmuang -- were arrested. Narong said he has instructed his men to investigate who actually owned the confiscated items. [passage omitted]

PHAM VAN DONG PRAISES COUNTRY'S PEACE MOVEMENT

OW240957 Hanoi VNA in English 0709 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24 -- Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong has sent an open letter commending the various mass organizations, departments and localities on their effectual activities last year in response to the UN-sponsored International Year of Peace.

The chairman said in his letter that the peace movement in 1986 stimulated people to step up their struggle for peace and preventing a nuclear war. They also aroused the people's awareness of the need to associate the national construction and defence task with the struggle for peace, friendship and cooperation in Southeast Asia and the Asian Pacific region as a whole.

HUNGARIAN DELEGATION ENDS VISIT, DEPARTS FOR LAOS

LD241851 Budapest MTI in English 1509 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi, March 24 (MTI) -- The delegation of the Hungarian Patriotic People's Front and the Hungarian Solidarity Committee has concluded its visit to Vietnam. Robert Ribanszki, secretary of the National Council of the Patriotic People's Front, vice president of the Hungarian Solidarity Committee led the delegation which, in Hanoi held talks with Pham Van Kiet, general secretary of the Vietnamese Patriotic Front, and with Trinh Ngoc Thai, general secretary of the Vietnamese Solidarity Committee, deputy head of the Foreign Relations Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam [title as received]. The delegation met Le Quang Dao, member of the Central Committee of the CPV.

The head of the Hungarian delegation presented the chief of the Vietnamese Solidarity Committee with an aid package from the corresponding Hungarian organization to contribute to alleviating the problems of the victims of last year's natural disasters. The delegation left Hanoi for Laos on Tuesday.

ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS SENT TO BRAZIL CP

OW241809 Hanoi VNA in English 1516 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24 -- The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam has sent its greetings to the Communist Party of Brazil on its 65th founding anniversary (March 25).

The message praises the Brazilian party's persistence in fighting for freedom, democracy and genuine interests of the Brazilian working people. "We have always followed with interest the positive changes which are taking place in Brazil", the message says. "These changes have opened a new prospect for the Brazilian people's struggle for freedom, democracy and future of their country, and contributed to the common struggle in Latin America and the world over for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress".

The message wishes the CPB still bigger successes in its revolutionary cause. It also wishes for further consolidation and development of the solidarity and friendship between the parties and peoples of Vietnam and Brazil.

TRUONG CHINH SENDS GREECE NATIONAL DAY GREETINGS

OW241757 Hanoi VNA in English 1518 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24 -- President Truong Chinh today sent his greetings to President Khristo Sartzetakis of Greece on the 166th Greek National Day (March 25).

The Vietnamese president wished for further consolidation and development of the friendly relations between the peoples of Vietnam and Greece.

HANOI VIEWS SHEVARDNADZE VISIT, OTHER ISSUES

BK200927 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Station editor Vu Dinh Vinh feature: "Heighten Vigilance for National Defense"]

[Text] Dear comrades and friends, recently world and regional public opinion has paid special attention to Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's visit to a number of countries in Asia and the Pacific. This visit reflects the Soviet Union's desire to defuse tension and end military confrontation in this region. It can be said that all the talks between the comrade Soviet foreign minister and leaders of the host countries such as Indonesia, Australia, Laos, Cambodia, and Vietnam were aimed at ensuring security in this region and, in a broader sense, at turning the Asia-Pacific region into a zone of peace, stability, friendship, and cooperation. The situation in Southeast Asia, including Cambodia, was a topic of discussion during his tour. The Soviet Union supports a speedy political solution in Cambodia and believes that the proposals advanced by the PRK Government and the joint external affairs documents adopted by Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia at the summit meetings and foreign ministerial conferences of the three Indochinese countries serve as a basis for such a solution. The Soviet Union supports the views of the Indochinese countries on this issue. At the same time, the spirit of these talks also indicates that normalizing and improving Vietnamese and Soviet relations with the PRC on the basis of equality and principle will greatly contribute to purifying the situation in Southeast Asia and Asia as a whole.

However, it is in this region that the imperialists and reactionary circles have undertaken schemes and acts that run counter to common national interests. Recent events have proven this and drawn everyone's attention. The Thai newspaper BANGKOK POST recently noted a new angle in Sino-Thai relations, remarking that discussions at a meeting early this year between high-ranking Chinese and Thai military officials focused on strengthening military agreements, including a plan to purchase many types of weapons from China. According to this newspaper, since the genocidal Pol Pot clique was driven out of the country by the Cambodian people, China has sought by every means to assist and cooperate with the Bangkok authorities in many fields and supplied the latter with weapons and ammunition -- including 16 pieces of 130-mm artillery for deployment along the Thai-Cambodian border.

In its military cooperation with Thailand, China is prepared to sell weapons at cheap or even nominal prices with payment deferred for 10 years. Therefore, there is a very great possibility for strengthening military cooperation between the two countries.

All this is, naturally, designed to serve a purpose. Thailand has regularly conducted joint military exercises with the United States in areas adjacent to the Cambodian border and allowed the latter to set up arms stockpiles on Thai soil.

Both the United States and China have supported various groups of Khmer reactionaries, provided them with material aid and weapons, and encouraged them to oppose and sabotage the Cambodian revolution. These facts fully explain China's chivalrous act of selling weapons to Thailand cheaply. It should also be mentioned that an exhibition of modern arms, considered the biggest in Asia, is being held 18-22 March in Bangkok with the participation of more than 200 companies from 20 countries in conjunction with a conference on national defense technology. Such actions obviously do not contribute to easing tension in the region.

Meanwhile, Sino-U.S. relations have also drawn public attention, particularly in Asia, since early March. U.S. Secretary of State Schultz visited China 1-5 March. He held talks with virtually all the Beijing leaders, during which both sides slanderously charged that the Soviet Union and Vietnam are the causes of tension and instability in Asia. Beijing claimed that the current power struggle does not in any way affect Sino-U.S. relations. Next, General Kelley, commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps, arrived in China on 14 March for a 5-day visit. Officials of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing stated that with General Kelley's visit, all of the military commanders of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff have visited China. Both China and the United States stressed that, although not military allies, the two countries share strategic concerns about the so-called increased Soviet military might in Asia. Liu Huaqing, commander of the Chinese Navy, said in his welcome speech to the American general that the ever-increasing contacts between the two countries' navies are not simply limited to the common interests of the United States and China. For his part, Kelley stated that his visit will strengthen Sino-U.S. military ties.

And people have witnessed the results of this relationship. The U.S. newspaper WASHINGTON POST reported that at the U.S. naval training center in Orlando, a 41-week training course was opened recently for officers and technical personnel of the Chinese Navy, with emphasis on torpedo maintenance. Last year, China agreed to purchase from the United States a number of antisubmarine torpedoes complete with launchers. The United States is now also supplying China with the technology and means to produce a new type of fuse for heavy artillery shells. It is also known that a number of Chinese military specialists are now attending 3-week training courses at a U.S. Air force base in Ohio.

In some other Asian countries, the collusion between U.S. imperialism and reactionary forces has also rendered the situation tense and complicated. On 4 March, a U.S. aircraft serving as a Strategic Air Command station arrived at the Yokota military base in Japan. This station's duty is to coordinate the actions of the U.S. Strategic Air Command in ordering first-strike nuclear attacks on any target on earth. It is one of six U.S. Strategic Air Command stations.

Also in Japan, the U.S. Air Force will deploy in April on (?Kyushu) Island a second squadron of F-16 fighter-bombers, bringing the total number of aircraft of this type here to 60.

To increase pressure on the revolutionary administration of Afghanistan and oppose the process of national concord in that country, the U.S. Administration has agreed to double its supply of antiaircraft missiles to the Afghan rebels over last year. Along with supplying 300 missiles to the rebels, the United States has sent many advisers to train them in operating these missiles at camps set up by Afghan reactionaries in Pakistan. It is noteworthy that, deeply worried by recent reports that Pakistan is producing nuclear bombs, world public has pointed out that the Pentagon itself has played an active role in turning Pakistan into a nuclear weapons producer and that the White House action challenges the policy of nuclear nonproliferation. U.S. military aid to Pakistan has been increasing annually, constituting a threat to peace and security in Asia. Through these facts, people can clearly see two opposing policies toward peace and stability in each region as well as throughout Asia and the Pacific.

NGUYEN VAN LINH VISITS Z-125 MACHINWORKS

BK240355 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] On 23 March, Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the CPV Central Committee, paid a working visit to the Z-125 Machineworks of the National Defense Ministry's Technical General Department. This is one of the national defense machineworks which has done a good job in production in support of the armed Forces while expanding and building their material-technical bases and participating effectively in economic construction.

Working with the leading comrades of the Z-125 Machineworks and other leading comrades of the National Defense Ministry's Technical General Department, the comrade general secretary hailed the machineworks as well as other machinery plants in the General Department for having adopted correct production guidelines. They have combined satisfactorily the two tasks of building national defense and carrying out economic development and have relied on their main advantages in national defense engineering in turning out more machinery products, including high-precision ones, to serve the national economy.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh pointed out the very important position of national defense machineworks not only for the national defense industry but also the engineering industry of the entire country. All national defense machineworks as well as the entire national defense industry sector must combine work closely with various machinery plants and other industrial sectors in the national economy in promptly devising a program for a long-term, unified national development program for industry in general and machinery in particular in order to best serve the three economic programs laid down at the Sixth CPV Congress.

The comrade proposed that national defense machineworks join with other machinery plants and with the entire metals and engineering sector in promptly forming central industrial and machinery complexes in Hanoi capital and in Ho Chi Minh City in order to provide material-technical bases to various national economic sectors and various localities, especially the Bac Bo and Nam Bo lowland programs. They must really link industry with agriculture in spurring the production of food, consumer goods, and export goods.

Comrade Nguyen Van Linh encouraged the Z-125 Machineworks and other national defense machinery plants to participate in economic construction, to gradually begin with economic accounting, to use income to offset expenditures and to make profits, to improve the production outcome and product qualities, and to renew production on a larger scale. It is necessary to study an appropriate system, policy, and organization for military machineworks to overcome existing difficulties in generating momentum for development.

The comrade urged national defense machineworks to satisfactorily establish close relations with their localities and to actively help these localities in developing production and stabilizing the people's lives for they must rely on the help of these localities to overcome difficulties now facing their cadres and workers in production and life.

PHAM HUNG SENDS LETTER TO JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

BK130717 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Feb 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] The judicial sector held its fifth national conference in Hanoi on 25 February to study various documents and to seek to thoroughly understand the spirit and the essence of the resolution of the Sixth CPV Congress, especially the part dealing with socialist law and legislation. On this basis, the sector scrupulously reviewed and evaluated its activities in 1986 and devised a program of activity for 1987 as well as for the period up to 1990.

In 1986, the judicial sector concentrated on serving various key tasks of the country. It has developed judicial work in depth, paid close attention to economic tasks, entered the area of economic management, and gradually participated in the field of protecting the law. The sector has linked the essence of its work with efforts to build a new management mechanism, and ensure the enforcement of law in the field of market and price control against economic crimes. In coordination with other relevant sectors, the judicial sector has compiled many legal documents and legal regulations to institutionalize party lines and policies, serve the political tasks, and strengthen socialist legislation.

The conference scrupulously reviewed weaknesses with regard to the contingent of cadres as well as those shortcomings found in work organization and implementation, and guidance and supervision. On this basis, the conference laid down the course of action for the sector for 1987 as well as for the period until 1990 with emphasis placed on making contributions to the implementation of the three major economic programs and on sticking to guidelines for building the new management mechanism. It is necessary to organize, study, and participate in realistic activities aimed at making contributions to perfect the compilation of legal documents governing the guaranteeing of basic economic units' right to autonomy in production and business and the reestablishment of order in circulation and distribution. At the same time, work activities must broaden democracy and enhance the people's role of collective mastery in making and implementing the law. Judiciary measures will be enforced to support the movement to purify the party ranks, overcome manifestations of corruption in the state machinery, repel negative phenomena in society, strengthen legal order, and realize social equity.

Comrade Pham Hung, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, sent a letter to the conference, warmly commending the judicial sector for its achievements over the past year. Concerning the sector's tasks in the coming period he stressed: "It is necessary to build an consolidate judicial organs and local courts, making them firm and strong with regard to their political quality and ability to grasp the law firmly and fully capable of fulfilling the tasks assigned.

To achieve this we must pay attention to training and fostering judicial and court cadres and thoroughly understand the spirit of renovating thinking, renovating organization and cadres, and renovating the style of leadership and work conduct in all areas of activities of the judicial sector... The judicial sector should renovate its judiciary thinking. This is meant to correctly realize the role of the law in management, to carry out state management by the law, and to control all aspects of social life by the law as pointed out in the resolution of the sixth party congress.

"Regarding the contingent of managerial cadres, it is necessary to overcome the tendency of treating the law lightly and considering it a restriction on their activities; and as far as judicial cadres are concerned, it is necessary to suppress the purist professional contention that the law is the key to everything."

HUYNH TAN PHAT INSPECTS ELECTIONS PREPARATIONS

BK240345 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Comrade Huynh Tan Phat, chairman of the Presidium of the VFF Central Committee and vice-chairman of the Central Electoral Council, recently led a delegation to inspect preparations for upcoming elections in Ho Chi Minh City.

The delegation held working sessions with the city people's committee and the city steering committee for the elections, went to the 11th Precinct and to Go Vap and Thu Duc districts to inspect preparations for the elections, and attended the 2d consultative conference held by the Ho Chi Minh City VFF Committee.

Comrade Huynh Tan Phat commended the city electoral committee for its efforts in electoral preparations, for having ensured that everything is carried out scrupulously and according to the law, and for having boldly and with determination redressed its deficiencies in choosing candidates to run for the elections.

OFFICIALS ATTEND WORLD METEOROLOGY DAY FUNCTION

OW241003 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 24 -- The General Department of Hydro-Meteorology held a meeting in Hanoi yesterday to mark the World Meteorological Day.

Present at the event were Vo Nguyen Giap, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers; Tran Van An, director of the department; and representatives of the United Nations' agencies and Soviet meteorologists in Hanoi.

Speaking at the meeting, Tran Van An highlighted Vietnam's contributions to the World Hydro-meteorological Service and its scientific and technical cooperation with other countries.

He appreciated considerable assistance in this field from the Soviet Union and other socialist countries, as well as from international and regional organizations.

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' DECISION ON CHECKPOINTS

BK160706 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 16 March 87

[Text] On 11 March, the Council of Ministers chairman issued decision No 80-CP to disband the checkpoints along roads and waterways.

The decision stipulates: To expand the circulation of goods, the Council of Ministers chairman has decided that effective 20 March 1987, the checkpoints along the interprovincial and intraprovincial roads and waterways will be disbanded in accordance with the stipulations in Decision No 78-CP dated 27 February 1984 and Decision No 305-CP dated 29 August 1984 of the Council of Ministers chairman.

Henceforth, no sectors nor echelons are authorized to establish permanent checkpoints or to organize mobile checks along roads or waterways.

The organization of control and inspection to ensure safety of communications and public security and order, which is assumed by the Ministries of Interior and Defense, is not governed by this decision.

The related central ministries and sectors adopt measures to coordinate professional forces of the state with forces of the masses to effectively oppose speculation and smuggling and to radically collect taxes from the very origins of production or sales so as to avoid losses of trade and industrial taxes and not to cause trouble to the legal circulation of goods by the people. At the same time, they must refer to their functions to public necessary documents providing guidance, explanation, and supervision and control over the implementation of this decision.

The people's committee chairmen of provinces, cities, and special zones must personally provide guidance and be responsible for disbanding checkpoints and will not let any of the local activities impede the circulation of authorized goods.

VINH PHU TAKES ACTION AGAINST PARTY MEMBERS

BK191407 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 19 Mar 87

[Text] Implementing the party Central Committee Secretariat's Directive No 79, various echelons of the Vinh Phu provincial party committee have conducted a criticism and self-criticism drive and have scored fine initial results, thereby creating a healthy atmosphere among the party's ranks. Through this political activity drive, a number of degenerate party cadres and members who had made numerous mistakes were seriously criticized and punished.

The province has taken initial measures against more than 3,000 party cadres and members guilty in different degrees of various mistakes and errors. Among them, 17 party cadres were under city and provincial control and 353 under district and city control. Almost 500 degenerate party members were expelled from the party.

However, many party cadres and members in the province with shortcomings and errors have not been seriously punished, and many cases have not been scrupulously dealt with. Investigations of various violations of socialist property and state law have been conducted slowly. Many new negative phenomena have emerged, and no measures have been taken to eliminate them promptly. Since the party organization congresses at various levels, Vinh Phu Province has failed to fulfill the program of overcoming shortcomings.

The provincial party committee's standing body has decided to continue conducting criticism and self-criticism while striving to combine this task with the movement to purify the party ranks in every basic party unit. The province has decided that all collectives and individuals who have balances due on motorcycles and construction materials that they have purchased and those who have embezzled money must pay or return the money due to the provincial authorities before 19 May 1987 and must pay interest at the state bank rate.

The province is resolutely dealing with various violations of the law. These include stealing state materials and goods, siphoning off state goods for sale, and giving or receiving bribes. The province is also accelerating its consideration of a number of letters from the people criticizing the conduct of some party cadres.

HANOI BANK ENCOURAGES PRIVATE ECONOMIES

OW120803 Hanoi VNA in English 0722 GMT 12 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 12 -- In order to create more favourable conditions for production and business activities by the families and private citizens, the Hanoi bank has issued new regulations concerning bank loans and deposits.

The new regulations stipulate that private citizens can open accounts at the bank, savings banks or credit cooperatives and steps will be taken to ensure their quick and unlimited withdrawals of money.

The production establishments and businesses run by families or individuals which have no transactions with the state and which want to deposit money in the state bank, savings banks or credit cooperatives are entitled to the current rates of interest of the savings banks.

With regard to those groups or individuals engaged in production and business activities who need more funds for their operation and want to sell their gold, silver or precious stones to the state, the city bank is ready to buy them, pay in cash at a mutually agreeable price, without inquiry into their certificates or origins.

AFP Gives More Details

BK161005 Hong Kong AFP in English 1000 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi, March 16 (AFP) -- Officials here are urging private businessmen to sell gold, silver and precious stones to the banks to spur commercial activity, says the HANOI MOI daily.

The newspaper reported last week that businessmen have been called on to "mobilize all sources of capital in order to increase production."

This call followed a recent municipal ruling which urged residents of the capital to moonlight by starting private businesses in specified sectors.

HANOI MOI acknowledged the existence of the black market saying that banks were ready to buy gold, silver or precious stones at prices close to those prevailing on the free market and without asking the origin of the valuables.

Vietnamese are forbidden to own what officials term "large amounts" of gold, silver or jewels. But major transactions such as the purchase of a house or a motorcycle are still negotiated in gold.

Only people who have taken up one of the activities mentioned in the municipal ruling -- which included arts and crafts, hairdressing, laundry and the sale of food products -- could cash in valuables, the newspaper said.

People setting up a small business can open a savings-bank account and get loans. Savings banks currently loan at three percent a month with an eight percent monthly return on five-year fixed deposits.

The call for the selling of valuables was greeted with cautious optimism but many people were anxious about the government switching its line.

Despite official assurances, owners of gold and jewelry -- who have seen frequent reversals in the government's attitudes towards the business community in the past -- are likely to hesitate before cashing in their valuables, observers said.

WORKERS NEED, ENCOURAGED TO HOLD TWO JOBS

OW160133 Tokyo KYODO in English 0113 GMT 16 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi, March 16 KYODO -- Moonlighting is booming here among workers who are trying to cope with a high rate of inflation and serious shortages of consumer goods. In fact, communist party authorities in the capital are encouraging people to earn extra money after work.

Thousands of families have started some form of business since the people's committee in the city relaxed regulations on private enterprises late last month -- an action regarded as reflecting the reformist policy of new party leader Nguyen Van Linh. The committee is also giving a variety of tax, foreign currency and bank loan incentives. Income from moonlighting and side jobs is tax exempt, according to committee officials.

City Committee Vice Chairman Nguyen Mai, who is in charge of economic affairs, said licences are no longer required to start barber shops, or bicycle repair business, or trade in bamboo or scrap iron. A majority of government employees are working after office hours, which are normally from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with many working late into the night in an attempt to make both ends meet.

The average government clerical employee gets a monthly salary of about 300 dong (roughly 10 dollars or 1,500 yen at the official exchange rate.) A bowl of noodles costs 70 dong and a ticket for a movie 20 dong.

"We are not paid enough to buy clothes or even books for our children," one public servant said. Rations of rice, kerosene, meat and three other basic commodities are currently supplied by the government.

Mai admits that without such rations, a family of workers would need an income of at least 2,000 to 2,500 dong a month.

HANOI COOPERATIVES PLAY DIRECT ROLE IN FOREIGN TRADE

BK211402 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Intercooperatives of the fine-art handicrafts sector in Hanoi that carry out planning and economic accounting independently have been allowed to participate in negotiations with foreign customers for the signing of export contracts, to open foreign currency accounts with the Foreign Trade Bank, to earn foreign currency interest rates, and to use foreign currency in accordance with municipal regulations.

They are exempted from export duties for 1986-87 in accordance with municipal decision. Cooperatives producing fine-art handicrafts goods are permitted to import additional supplies and raw material needed for improving product quality through fine-art handicrafts intercooperatives and the municipal planning commission. Outstanding managerial and technical cadres and artists who make great contributions to the sector have been sent to attend training sessions domestically and abroad.

DAC LAC PROVINCE IMPLEMENTS ECONOMIC PROGRAMS

BK140950 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Mar 87

[Text] The Dac Lac provincial party committee recently held a conference of key cadres to discuss measures to implement the three major economic programs. In 1987, the province will strive to produce 230,000 metric tons of grains, 4,200 metric tons of soybean, 6,000 metric tons of green bean, 18,000 metric tons of peanut, 6,000 metric tons of pork, 700 metric tons of freshwater fish, and 33,000 metric tons of vegetables. It will produce consumer goods worth 30 million dong and export goods valued at 24 million rubles, of which 0.3 million rubles will have been derived from locally-produced material.

The province has expanded its joint ventures with various central and other provincial units on the basis of increasing investment in equipment and materials and strengthening scientific and technological cooperation in order to produce more consumer goods. The province is striving to exploit and fully use capital, especially in coffee and rubber plantation investment. The province has proposed to the sectors concerned to seek foreign loans for a 3-year period to import materials, machinery, and equipment to perfect various production lines -- especially fertilizer and oil production -- and to provide facilities for specializing in the cultivation of coffee, rubber, and agricultural products for export. The province also rationally adjusted the investment structure, especially in intensive cultivation, to quickly recover capital and produce more goods for export.

SRV-POLAND FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION MEETS

OW211550 Hanoi VNA in English 1502 GMT 21 Mar 87

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 21 -- Central Executive Committee of the Vietnam-Poland Friendship Association held a meeting today to review its work in the past year and adopt its 1987 programme. Representatives of the organs and offices having twinning ties with Poland also attended. The meeting decided among other things to popularize more widely among the Vietnamese people the big achievements of the Polish people in socio-economic construction and defence work.

BRIEFS

HAIPHONG JOBS, TRAINING -- Hanoi VNA March 24 -- The port city of Haiphong has opened five new job-training centres in addition to the five existing ones. These new centres are capable of taking in about 1,000 young people annually. Since the beginning of this year, all industrial, small industry and handicraft establishments in the city have streamlined their production and management, and set up new sections specializing in producing consumer goods and products for export. Over 3,000 more workhands have settled for steady jobs for the production of export goods such as shoes and garments. The arts and crafts company has opened new production lines such as palm-blinds, lacquerware, wooden statutes and woollen knitwear, employing thousands more of workers. The city this year plans to provide jobs for 13,000 people, 65 per cent of them with steady jobs. [Text] [Hanoi VNA in English 0659 GMT 24 Mar 87 OW]

MALAYSIAASEAN TO BROADEN SCOPE OF ECONOMIC COOPERATION

BK231436 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] Indonesia and Malaysia have agreed on the need for ASEAN to broaden the scope of economic cooperation to ensure the prosperity and integrity of this region. Foreign Minister Datuk Rais Yatim said today that ASEAN should be united to enable itself to advance and succeed in economic activities.

During question time at the Senate, he said that the two countries had agreed on this matter at the recent talks between the prime minister and President Suharto in Johor Baharu.

FORMER MCA PRESIDENT TAN RESIGNS FROM PARLIAMENT

BK240921 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 23 Mar 87 p 9

[Text] KUALA LUMPUR, Sunday [22 March] -- Former MCA [Malaysian Chinese Association] president Tan Koon Swan has tendered his resignation as the Member of Parliament for Gopeng to the party, according to MCA sources today.

Party president Datuk Dr Ling Liong Sik and his deputy, Datuk Lee Kim Sai, conveyed Tan's wish to resign as MP for that constituency last week to the party's co-ordinating committee. It was unanimously accepted by the MCA Ministers and Deputy Ministers.

"What is needed now is to endorse this matter at the central committee meeting, scheduled to be held on Friday," according to the sources.

Datuk Dr Ling and Datuk Lee are expected to meet party supporters in Gopeng on Saturday to explain the reasons behind Tan's resignation.

Tan has until April 6 to be sworn in as MP.

According to the sources, Datuk Dr Ling and Datuk Lee went to see Tan in Changi Prison in Singapore last Saturday regarding his position as the MP for Gopeng.

They said that they discussed the Gopeng parliamentary seat and decided that the party would respect Tan's wish to resign.

"Tan had expressed his desire to resign as MP of Gopeng several times since last year but the MCA central committee decided against it as the party was then embroiled in several national issues.

"However, we now feel that the time is right as some of the major issues which had taken most of the party's time and efforts have now almost been resolved.

"Furthermore, we think we should respect Tan's final wish to resign."

Although the Dewan Rakyat proceedings ended last week, the MCA sources said there was no rule in the Standing Orders that said that MPs could not be sworn in in places other than the Dewan Rakyat [House of Representatives].

Furthermore, they said, the Government could have a special sitting of the Dewan Rakyat for Tan to be sworn in.

However, they said there was no need for this as Tan had already submitted his resignation.

Furthermore, the Elections Commission is expected to meet very soon to discuss the date of the Gopeng by-election.

It is understood that Datuk Lee or MCA secretary-general Ng Cheng Kiat was to have submitted Tan's resignation letter last week to the commission.

However, this could not be confirmed as almost all of the top party leaders were away in Perak for the State Barisan Nasional meeting today.

The MCA sources said that it was aware that Umno was interested in Gopeng but it would request the Perak Barisan Nasional to let the MCA contest the seat.

This is because the party has been busy making preparations to retain the seat from the day Tan was arrested in late 1985.

The preparations included maintaining a service centre manned by two full-time workers to cater to the needs of the Gopeng people, in addition to the services offered by the two MCA State Assemblymen.

Furthermore, the MCA was also on the verge of completing its briefings to Chinese community leaders on some of the misconceptions relating to the party's involvement in the co-operatives' scandal.

The MCA sources said this was important as it was the biggest obstacle to the party's bid to retain the Gopeng seat.

They dismissed suggestions that the DAP [Democratic Action Party] would easily win the Gopeng seat as the MCA's image had been badly tarnished by Tan's arrest.

Meanwhile, DAP sources said the party was certain of contesting the seat.

BRIEFS

OIL RESERVES FIGURE -- Malaysia's oil reserves of 2.9 billion barrels are expected to last about 17 years at the current rate of production of about 500,000 barrels per day. The minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Mr Kasitah Gadam, told Parliament that between 1984 and 1986, three oil fields were discovered in the South China Sea off Sarawak State, and another was discovered off Sabah State. The minister said the average price of Malaysian crude is \$18 per barrel currently, compared to a peak price of \$42.1 in January 1981. [Summary] [Kuala Lumpur International Service in English 0600 GMT 19 Mar 87 BK]

AQUINO 'DECLARATION OF WAR' SPEECH ANALYZED

Government Officials Comment

HK240955 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 24 Mar 87 pp 1, 4

[Text] President Aquino's declaration of war against leftist and rightist radicals should also be construed as a policy statement directed at the military to work harder, a Malacanang official said yesterday.

Maj. Gen. (ret.) Jose P. Magno, presidential adviser on military affairs, said that the President's speech at the Philippine Military Academy rites stressed a two-pronged policy of handling radical elements.

"She (Mrs. Aquino) was emphasizing again the use of judicious force to meet force. It's not an all-out war. It's always been balanced. You meet force with an equal number of force," Magno explained.

Former foreign affairs undersecretary Leticia Shahani said that the President was simply saying that "extreme methods, which use violent means, must also be met with force" to protect the government.

She said the Chief Executive was forced to make a stand as any head of state would do when confronted with a series of violent actions by extremists.

"Every legitimate government has the right to protect itself from violent methods," she said.

Shahani, a senatorial candidate of the ruling coalition, said the President is now willing to take direct military action to "protect the state and the republic" against terrorism by radical forces purportedly fighting for the rights of the poor.

Another senatorial aspirant of the administration, Agapito "Butz" Aquino, said the President was addressing herself to the extreme left and right involved in "senseless killings."

"I think it's about time the President really tells the terrorists in this country that she means business," Butz Aquino said.

Both Shahani and Aquilino Pimentel, jr., former presidential adviser for national affairs and also a senatorial bet, said the President has not yet given up on peace talks and the long-term goal of improving the country's economy to fight insurgency.

"She (the President) has an overall plan on insurgency, hoping a solution will be arrived at. Certainly, when there are ambushes I think the military can pounce upon the ambushers," Pimentel said.

Called 'Dangerous Demagoguery'

HK240949 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 24 Mar 87 p 2

[Text] Bagong Pulitika [BP -- New Politics], the alliance for new politics, yesterday branded as "dangerous demagoguery" President Aquino's statement before the graduating cadets at the Philippine Military Academy (PMA) that she would not allow the rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution to be used by left and the right. "It is dangerous because it threatens to set aside certain provisions of the new Constitution for what can be explained a 'protection of the people'," the alliance said in a statement. [paragraph continues]

"This means that President Aquino can do anything about the Constitution, even suspend the Bill of Rights, if she decides to, upon her excuse that her enemies pose a grave threat to the Government and the Republic."

Aquino's PMA address which declared war on the extreme left and right the BP said, "does not only betray a total lack of understanding of the country's basic ills at the root of the insurgency. It also shows the further strengthening of the militarist influence in the Aquino Government."

The president, the statement said, "sounded like another Marcos" in her speech.

Senatorial candidate Jaime Tadeo, president of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipins (KMP) [Peasant Movement of the Philippines], said that while Mrs. Aquino wants justice "for PMA and GMA [Channel 7]," she did not demand "justice for the victims of massacres perpetrated by her soldiers."

Bernabe Buscayno, who founded the New People's Army (NPA) in 1969 said that he was "saddened" by the president's speech because she "cannot seem to differentiate between the real enemies of democracy and the forces of democracy that can help establish a democratic society."

INQUIRER Editorial

HK241009 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 24 Mar 87 p 4

[Editorial: "Twin Threats to Security"]

[Text] An evidently indignant President has finally declared that before her term ends in 1991 she is determined to crush the major threats to her administration's security. Speaking at exactly the same spot where four people were killed and 47 others were injured by a bomb blast, Ms. Aquino vowed that the perpetrators of the PMA [Philippine Military Academy] atrocity, of ambushes and other attacks on government security forces, and of the half dozen or so coup attempts during her first term will not go unpunished.

The commander-in-chief's declaration came after what the state-run PHILIPPINES NEWS AGENCY described as the bloodiest week of the year in which at least 108 people had been killed in more than 30 insurgency-related incidents throughout the archipelago. These gruesome statistics have given her more than enough cause to start talking tough. The escalation of violence has apparently served to finally convince her that her reconciliation offer has been spurned by both the radical Left and the ultra-Right. The exasperation that Ms. Aquino has expressed reflects the frustration which she shares with her middle-class constituency. It has shattered what the detractors of her peace effort have described from the start as naive hopes that her government can somehow persuade those who are committed to a radically different vision for Philippine society to abandon their struggle.

But Ms. Aquino had no other option than to give her reconciliation policy the opportunity she has given it. Coming after a dictator notorious for his iron-fisted -- and woodenheaded -- approach to any kind of opposition to his regime, Ms. Aquino was compelled to give peace a chance, if only to underscore her claims that her presidency would be different [*preceding word in italics*]. Moreover, the relatively non-violent manner in which the people were able to topple Marcos and thereafter install her in Malacanang had made her and key members of her Cabinet become fervent believers in the philosophy of non-violence. [paragraph continues]

And when the communist-led rebel alliance did respond to her peace overtures and agreed to a cease-fire, it did seem as though she had been vindicated.

But Ms. Aquino failed to reckon with the tenacity and cleverness of the hawks within her own official family, as well as similarly inclined groups outside the administration. Without doubt, these cliques had done their best to demonstrate the "futility of negotiating with communists," by stage managing a sequence of events that forced both [*preceding word in italics*] sides to call off the peace talks.

She and other government officials also failed to recognize how deeply the differences between her administration's liberalism and the underground's revolutionary program run. What she had hoped for was an understanding, a *modus vivendi* that just could not be, given the ideological rigidity of the leaders of the insurgent movement. Reconciliation was a beautiful dream that unfortunately could not -- and cannot -- be turned into a reality for as long as the rebels limit their options to armed struggle.

Now the Aquino administration finds itself responding in virtually the same manner that the previous regime did to the insurgency. Last Sunday, the President announced: "The answer to the terrorism of the Left and the Right... is not social and economic reform but police and military action." Whether she would be proven right only time will tell.

However, the ordinary citizens of this country, who consider themselves "centrists," expect that the Aquino administration would come down just as hard on right-wing extremists as the Armed Forces is now pursuing communist-led rebels. Any indication that the government and the military are holding back their punches against the rightists would only drive many of Ms. Aquino's liberal supporters closer to the radical Left. That was what precisely happened in the latter years of the Marcos regime.

RAMOS SAYS CHARGES WILL BE FILED IN PMA BOMBING

HK250137 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fidel Ramos yesterday [24 March] said charges of illegal possession of firearms and explosives will be filed against an Army captain linked to the bomb explosion at the Philippine Military Academy [PMA] last Wednesday.

Ramos said investigators have found evidence to file charges against Captain Wilhelm Doromal, a firearms and explosives instructor at the academy. Investigators found at Doromal's residence at Camp Allen, in Baguio, 1,830 rounds of ammunition, a grenade launcher, a rifle grenade, electrical wires, and detonators. Doromal was arrested a day or two after the explosion which killed four people and injured 48 others.

Suspect Takes Polygraph Test

OW251117 Tokyo KYODO in English 1054 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Excerpt] Baguio, Philippines, March 23 [dateline as received] KYODO -- An Army captain arrested in connection with the March 18 bombing at the Philippine Military Academy denied Wednesday that he was involved in the blast which killed four people and injured 39 others.

Capt. Wilhelm Doromal reportedly said in a lie detector test at which he was accompanied by his lawyer Daniel Farinas, "I do not have anything to do with the bombing."

He said he "did not go near the vicinity" of a grandstand whose roof was blown apart by a three-piece Soviet-made antitank B-40 bomb.

President Corazon Aquino, who addressed this year's graduates of the academy from the same grandstand Sunday, said the blast was the "greatest threat" to her life and vowed to find those responsible. The incident led Aquino to make her toughest statement so far against communist insurgents and rightist terrorists, calling for immediate military action against terrorism and a "string of honorable military victories" against enemies of her year-old government.

The results of Doromal's polygraph test will not be revealed until cleared by the region's military commander, Brig. Gen. Jesus de la Cruz, military investigators said.

The 41-year-old explosives and demolition instructor at the academy was ordered arrested by Armed Forces Chief Gen. Fidel Ramos after a cache of firearms and explosives were seized from his house here. Ramos has said that the investigation of Doromal has provided what "appears to be the most likely and plausible lead" in the bombing. Doromal, who has taught at the academy since 1976, said all the firearms and explosives found in his house were "properly issued" to him as teaching aids and he had merely failed to return them in time.

Doromal's lawyer said he expected the early release of the Army captain because there is no evidence against him. [passage omitted]

MINDANAO GENERAL REJECTS REBEL TRUCE OFFER

OW251103 Tokyo KYODO in English 1052 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, March 25 KYODO -- The military commander of this northern Mindanao region in the southern Philippines Wednesday rejected an offer by leftist insurgents of a limited truce to cover the Holy Week (Easter) and the May 11 congressional elections.

Brig. Gen. Mariano Adalem said the truce offered by the north-central Mindanao committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines and the local chapter of the left-wing coalition, National Democratic Front (NDF), is "just a propaganda ploy to project the rebels as God-fearing people."

"It (offer) does not mean anything to us unless it includes provisions to bring about a lasting peace," Adalem said.

He said the rebels should surrender their firearms and hold "formal discussions" on the problems that cause insurgency.

5 CHDF MEMBERS EXECUTED IN MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL

HK241029 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] A report from Cagayan de Oro City: five members of the Civilian Home Defense Force [CHDF] were summarily executed by communist rebels in front of townsfolk in [word indistinct], Misamis Occidental. The CHDF men were brought to the plaza square for execution. The rebels then lectured the people on the [words indistinct] of President Aquino.

SORSOGON REBEL LEADER, 3 OTHERS CAPTURED

HK250445 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT
25 Mar 87

[Text] Four rebels were captured in separate police and military operations in the past few days. One of those captured was a ranking communist leader of Donsol, Sorsogon. Another captured rebel was believed to be a sparrow unit member who killed a police officer in [words indistinct] Iloilo. PC-INP [Philippine Constabular-Integrated National Police] chief Major General Renato de Villa identified him as [name indistinct]. [passage indistinct] They also recovered from them M-203 rifles, grenades, and handguns.

MNLF RALLY ASKS IMMEDIATE AUTONOMY FOR MINDANAO

HK190915 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 19 Mar 87 p 7

[By correspondent R.G. Roy]

[Text] Zamboanga City -- Leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and hundreds of sympathizers yesterday urged President Aquino to immediately issue an executive order granting the rebels' demand for autonomy in Mindanao during a rally at Plaza Pershing this city.

The rally marked the 18th founding anniversary of the Bangsa Moro Army and was preceded by a parade along the city's main streets by placard-bearing demonstrators, among them women and children.

Zain Jali, the MNLF civilian coordinator in their peace talks with the Government, told the 'CHRONICLE' that the MNLF leders are asking the direct help of President Aquino because they do not trust Congress.

"Marcos is no longer here, but the machinery of oppression he left behind is still intact," Jali said.

Asnad Abdul, a member of the MNLF secretariat, said that President Aquino can easily enact an executive order granting autonomy to Mindanao because of the Constitution's transitory provisions.

Jali said that MNLF chairman Nur Misuari led the celebrations in Maimbong, Jolo and that similar activities were held in MNLF strong-holds in Basilan, Tawi-tawi, Davao, Cotabato, Lenao and Misamis.

Jali said that Misuari and other MNLF leaders were still hoping for a peaceful solution to the Mindanao problem through the peace talks that will resume in Manila on March 23 to 25.

He noted, however, that the peace talks' success is getting dimmer and blamed the Government for its alleged divide-and-rule strategy and delaying tactics.

The MNLF civilian coordinator also said that some members of their panel might no longer attend the resumption of peace talks in Manila. But he said that he was still personally giving it a 50-50 percent change of succeeding.

Yesterday's rallyists carried a big picture of Misuari and miniature flags of the Bangsa Moro Republic. Some of their placards said "Give us freedom and we will give you peace" and "We came here to wage war but to work for peace."

AQUINO 'SATISFIED' WITH MINDANAO TALKS PROGRESS

HK201355 Hong Kong AFP in English 1345 GMT 20 Mar 87

[By Francois Chatel]

[Excerpts] Manila, March 20 (AFP) -- Talks between the government of President Corazon Aquino and Moslem rebels about autonomy for Moslem areas of the southern Philippines are completely deadlocked, sources here say. Two military leaders of the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) warned Thursday that fighting would resume in 50-odd days if the government did not relax its position on rebel demands.

However the chief negotiator said after meeting with Mrs. Aquino Friday that Manila has not made any decision on the Moslem rebels' proposals, and government television quoted the president as saying she was satisfied with the progress of the talks. [passage omitted]

The 15-year-old rebel group also demanded that an 85 per cent Moslem force take charge of security on the island, despite the fact that only one third of its population is Moslem.

Chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez told reporters that "we have not accepted (their proposal) and we have not rejected (it) either because we feel that the subject requires extensive talks and exchanges in views." "We hope to do that for three days," he added, referring to a fourth round of negotiations to be held here from March 23 to 25. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, another government negotiator said Friday that self-exiled MNLF chief Nur Misuari may arrive in two days and may be accompanied by Dimas Pundato, head of a rival Moslem guerrilla faction excluded from the talks. "We have unconfirmed reports that Pundato would be joining Nur on his way home. So as far as Pundato is concerned, I don't think we will have problems there," negotiator Norberto Gonzales said, adding that they would meet with the government panel.

He added that a third rival faction, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, "is still a problem."

MINDANAO TALKS RECESS; TO RESUME 9 APRIL

HK241553 Hong Kong AFP in English 1546 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 24 (AFP) -- Negotiations aimed at solving the 15-year Moslem separatist rebellion in the south went on a recess Tuesday with the rebels urging President Corazon Aquino to enforce Moslem autonomy through a decree.

Both the government and the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) panels have firmed up their positions and will go on a two-week recess for further consultations with their respective people, the official PHILIPPINE NEWS AGENCY (PNA) said.

The two sides, which had been meeting in the past two days in Tagaytay City south of Manila, agreed to come up with specific proposals to end the problem in the Philippine south when they meet again on April 9, PNA said, quoting a joint communique.

The MNLF has demanded political autonomy for Mindanao and four other island groups with the retention of its guerrilla army to be transformed into the local security force of the region.

MNLF negotiator Habib Mujahab Hashim said Tuesday that the MNLF would agree to autonomy mandated the presidential decree and not by plebiscite, PNA said. The government has not commented directly on the MNLF's proposal, but PNA quoted chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez as reiterating Tuesday its aim to solve the problem within the framework of the Philippine Constitution.

The contrasting statements appeared to indicate continuing deadlock in the negotiations, political observers said.

Reliable sources said the MNLF is putting pressure on Mrs Aquino to use her law-making powers to change the constitutional limits on Moslem autonomy before her legislative powers are taken away from her when the new Congress convenes in July. Under the new Constitution's definition for Moslem Mindanao, the autonomous area would be limited to a maximum of 13 out of the island's 22 provinces since the Moslems comprise the majority in the other provinces.

PNA said the MNLF panel will go to its stronghold in Maimbung, a town on the southern island group of Sulu, to consult with the exiled MNLF Chairman Nur Misuari, who according to PNA had arrived from the Middle East Saturday.

ISRAEL 'EXPANDING' TIES WITH AFP, PARAMILITARY

HK190855 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 19 Mar 87 p 10

[By Olaf Giron]

[Text] Israel has been expanding its military relations with the Armed Forces of the Philippines [AFP], paramilitary units and private warlord armies, a political scientist disclosed yesterday.

Businesswise, it has set up lucrative markets in the country for its arms exports as evidenced by the proliferation of Uzi and Galil assault rifles here, according to University of the Philippines Prof. Roland G. Simbulan.

Gen. Efraim Poran, former military attache of Israel in Singapore and military secretary to Prime Minister Begin and Rabin, specializes in the arms exports to the Philippines, Sumbulan pointed out.

He added that the Philippines has been receiving an increasing amount of military aid, including training facilities, from Israel since the Marcos regime.

A press statement from the professor bared the following:

The expertise of Israel's secret service -- the Mossad -- and its anti-guerrilla unit called the "agricultural cooperatives-kibbutz style," which aims at greater social control of the peasantry, is likewise being exported to the Philippines along with military hardware.

In 1985, three-month courses were conducted in Palawan for paramilitary units identified with a top Marcos crony. The training was conducted with several ex-Israeli officers serving as instructors in counter-guerrilla warfare.

Another Israeli officer, General Tamari, using his weapons firm named Ramux Control Systems, trained many Filipino junior officers during the past administration.

Simbulan said Marcos was so impressed with Israel's military expertise that he allowed the Israelis to train the elite military personnel of his bodyguard system as well as to supply it with Uzi and Galil assault rifles, and surveillance and radio equipment.

USSR SEEKS SHIPPING, FISHING AGREEMENTS

HK201027 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 15

[By Jose de Vera]

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union is seeking agreements with the Aquino government on the repair of Soviet ships in the Philippines and fishing privileges in Philippine waters, military intelligence sources said.

The sources said four experts from the Soviet Union's Ministry of Merchant Fleet will arrive in Manila in May to discuss the possibility of forging the agreements with the Philippine Government.

The group will also discuss RP [Republic of the Philippines]-USSR cooperation on cargo-handling and other business activities.

The sources said the visit of the Soviet experts was made known to Ramon A. Diaz, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government [PCGG], in a letter last March 13 of Capt. Vadim G. Boltruchuk, president of Filsov Shipping Co., which acts as chief agent, shipping and chartering brokers for all Soviet vessels in the Philippines.

A copy of the letter was furnished PCGG Commissioner Mary Concepcion Bautista, it was learned.

According to the source, the letter mentioned a meeting on Feb. 26 between the PCGG and Filsov's vice president, as well as another letter to the PCGG on March 3 informing the commission about the results of a meeting held at the USSR Ministry of Merchant Fleet in Moscow. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic problems between the Philippines and the Soviet Union appeared to have worsened following disclosures by intelligence authorities that the USSR had been sowing discord in the Philippines.

Sources said the issues focused on a pending Soviet request for a consulate in Cebu City, an RP-USSR fishing agreement, and expansion of the Soviet diplomatic mission in Manila.

The Philippine Department of Defense and the Armed Forces, especially the intelligence community, are said to be strongly opposed to the proposed fishing venture because Russian fishing vessels, they said, are actually part of the Russian navy.

Soviet trawlers are naval ships equipped with sophisticated eavesdropping devices, the sources said.

USSR OFFICIAL ASSAILS 'DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGN'

HK201039 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 20 Mar 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] A ranking Soviet embassy official yesterday said "there is an apparent orchestrated disinformation campaign aimed at destroying relations between the Philippines and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics."

Victor Samoilenko, counselor of the Soviet embassy, told a news conference most of the media reports about the affairs of his country here are "not true."

Recent news reports (not in the INQUIRER) have it that Soviet "spy ships" disguised as fishing trawlers are cruising the Philippine territorial waters.

Other newspapers, too, have raised a ruckus about the Soviet purchase of a property in Forbes Park, Makati, and the construction of a new high-rise embassy building overlooking the army headquarters at Fort Bonifacio.

Samoilenko also belied reports that the Soviet embassy staff has been expanded. The reports about the number of the staff has been overblown because of the inclusion of wives and children of embassy officials, he said.

The news conference called by the Soviet embassy came as former Philippine Ambassador to Moscow, Romeo Fernandez, clarified that there is a written agreement between the Philippines and the Soviet Union on the construction of a new embassy building in Forbes Park.

Fernandez said that the foreign office had objected to the Soviet purchase of the property. The Soviet Union, however, invoked a bilateral agreement on trade and friendship signed in 1976 which provides that the Soviet trade mission is an integral part of the Soviet embassy.

"There is no way the Philippines can stop the construction of the building at Forbes Park because it is legal," Fernandez said.

Fernandez added that the government should instead come up with certain countermeasures to protect itself against sophisticated electronic surveillance equipment.

DEPARTMENT 'HELPLESS' IN SOVIET EMBASSY CASE

HK190903 Manila THE MAINLA CHRONICLE in English 19 Mar 87 p 3

[Text] The foreign department appeared helpless in the ongoing tug-of-war between the Soviet embassy and the military of what to do with the Soviet building in Forbes Park.

The DFA [Department of Foreign Affairs], sources said, could not stop the controversial construction of the P16-million property as recommended by military intelligence officials because it would be a violation of extraterritoriality.

The Soviet residence, reserved for the Soviet trade representative and his family, is part of the Soviet embassy which is an extension of the Soviet territory in the country.

"The Soviets may or may not comply with a government order to stop construction" because only the Soviet Government could exercise control over its territory, the sources said.

Vice President and Foreign Secretary Salvador Laurel, sources said, was about to issue an order to stop construction when he was reminded by his DFA advisers about the agreement providing for the purchase of the 4,223 square meter Forbes Park property on June 6, 1984.

The agreement, entered into by then Foreign Minister Manuel Collantes and former Ambassador Yuriy Sholmov, stated that the Philippine Government "has no objections to the purchase of the properties by the Soviet Union for its Chancery and Embassy ... in the understanding that in the event that the Philippine Government decides to purchase a property in the Soviet Union, it could avail of the same privileges."

The Soviet trade representative's residence was classified as part of the Chancery.

MARCOS MEN CHARGED IN BENIGNO AQUINO SLAYING

HK250139 Manila Far East Broadcasting Company in English 2300 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] The Sandiganbayan [anti-graft court] yesterday [24 March] ordered the arrest of two former Marcos government ministers, a retired brigadier general, and eleven other soldiers as accomplices in the Aquino-Galman murder case. Ordered arrested were former Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras, former Information Minister Gregorio Cendana, retired Brigadier General Jesus Singson who was the former director of air transportation, and the eleven soldiers who were formerly with the defunct Aviation Security Command.

Singson posted P40,000 bail yesterday for his temporary release, according to Sandiganbayan Chief Sheriff Eduardo (Ureta). The warrant of arrest is expected to be served today to Aspiras who resides in Ilocos. Cendana is out of the country.

This development brings to 40 the number of people accused in the Aquino-Galman case. However the Sandiganbayan has not yet set the date for the trial.

LOWER HOUSE ELECTION CAMPAIGNING BEGINS

OW241015 Tokyo KYODO in English 0826 GMT 24 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 24 KYODO -- Campaigning for the May 11 polls for the lower house began Tuesday with former officials of the administration of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos among the expected 2,000 candidates vying for the 200 seats up for grabs in the House of Representatives.

Also in the running are officials of the year-old government of President Corazon Aquino, which was formed after a civilian-backed military revolt which drove Marcos into exile in February 1986.

Among those in the race are former Local Governments Minister Jose Rono, Tourism Minister Jose Aspiras, Justice Minister Estelito Mendoza and Muslim warlord Ali Dimaporo, all close allies of Marcos.

Aquino's Transportation Secretary Hernando Perez resigned his post to run for Congress as did Raul Daza, who left his seat on the five-member Presidential Commission on Good Government, which is trying to recover Marcos' alleged ill-gotten money.

Elections for the 24-member Senate will be held simultaneously with the lower house polls after a new Constitution, approved in a plebiscite last month, restored a U.S.-style bicameral legislature.

Records at the main office of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) showed that 948 candidates had filed by [the] midnight Monday deadline. Other candidates filed at Comelec regional offices. Comelec lawyer Horacio Apostol said it would take them at least a week to prepare the final list of congressional candidates nationwide, which is expected to surpass the two-thousand mark.

Former Comelec Chairman Victorino Savellano is also running as an independent candidate.

The May 11 polls will be the first after Marcos padlocked the old Congress when he imposed martial law in 1972. The parliaments elected in 1978 and 1984 were regarded as mere rubber-stamps as Marcos continued to rule by decree. The last parliament was abolished by Aquino in March 1986, while still ruling under her revolutionary powers.

When asked whether the participation of politicians closely identified with Marcos would bring back "old politics," Comelec Chairman Ramon Felipe said: "We expect some improvements because we will enforce the rules strictly." Felipe predicted, however, that the coming elections would be violent. He did not elaborate.

ARMY TO SUSPEND 'ALL-OUT' OPERATIONS FOR POLLS

HK251151 Manila Radio Veritas in Tagalog 1000 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] The military will temporarily suspend all-out operations against the rebels in order to concentrate on its responsibilities during the coming congressional elections. This was stated by Defense Secretary Rarael Ileto during a news conference at Camp Aguinaldo.

More reports from Department of National Defense reporter Ed Pangilinan:

[Begin recording in English] Defense Secretary Rafael Ileto said that while Mrs Aquino in her speech last Sunday at the Philippine Military Academy ceremonies ordered an all-out campaign against insurgents from the left and the right, the Armed Forces will oversee potential trouble spots in the country and would not launch any full-scale attack against the insurgents, be it the left or the right.

However, Ileto said based on the speech of President Aquino, which he described as the strongest yet so far, the defense and the military establishments have begun strengthening the existing policies with regards to the insurgency problems, especially in the Metro Manila area, where a series of killings of military and police personnel have taken place. [end recording]

GUIDELINES SET FOR MEDIA AT POLLING CENTERS

HK230631 Baguio City Mountain Province Broadcasting Company in English 0330 GMT 23 Mar 87

[Text] The Comelec [Commission on Elections] has adopted a resolution en blanc limiting to three the number of media representatives to be allowed inside any polling center at any given time on May 11. The Comelec likewise directed the Board of Election inspectors to regulate the sequence of the entry of newsmen and the duration of their stay inside the precincts so as not to disrupt the board's proceedings. Foreign newsmen will be accredited, based on rules and regulations issued by the poll body.

LATE REPORT: 'IMMINENT' MINDANAO FIGHTING DENIED

HK251213 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 25 Mar 87

[Text] Manila, March 25 (AFP) -- The Philippine Government and Moslem rebels called on Filipinos Wednesday to disregard reports that renewed fighting was imminent.

In an unprecedented move seen by political observers as an attempt to save the apparently deadlocked negotiations, the two sides issued a joint statement denying local press reports that the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) would shortly resume its armed campaign.

"We would like to advise the people not to be unduly alarmed by news stories which give impression that the MNLF is on the verge of war against the government, implying the breakdown of the (Philippine-MNLF) peace talks," the statement said.

The talks were suspended for two weeks Tuesday with the rebels calling on President Corazon Aquino to issue a decree to bring about Moslem autonomy on Mindanao and other southern islands, while the government's chief negotiator implied the question would have to be addressed by the Congress.

"The formal talks were suspended yesterday not because of any breakdown of negotiations, but, as we stated in our joint press statement (Tuesday)... to enable the panels to conduct consultations on various outstanding issues and prepare the necessary documents," the statement said.

"These steps are necessary in order to ensure that further talks will be fruitful."

An afternoon daily, THE MIDDAY, quoted an unidentified MNLF official as saying MNLF chairman Nur Misuari was preparing his forces for renewed fighting if the peace talks with the Aquino government failed.

Chief MNLF negotiator Habib Majahab Hashim, one of the signatories of Wednesday's joint statement, was earlier quoted by the official PHILIPPINE NEW AGENCY (PNA) as saying "there is simply no valid reason to continue the talks" due to the failure of the government to respond to the MNLF proposals so far.

The MNLF has demanded political autonomy for the Moslem minority in five island groups in the south and western Philippines comprising a third of the country's total land area, and the retention of its guerrilla army to serve as the local security force for the autonomous region.

Mr Hashim and chief government negotiator Emmanuel Pelaez said in their joint statement Wednesday that "we continue to discuss the different issues involved in an earnest desire to achieve peace and understanding. Thus far, we believe we will succeed."

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